

U.K. launches biggest army exercise

LONDON (AP) — An army exercise described as Britain's largest peace-time operation since World War II began Monday. It is designed to practice beefing up troops in West Germany should war threaten with Warsaw Pact countries. The Defence Ministry said that Operation Lionheart is the largest for the army since the end of the war in 1945. The first of thousands of troops and armoured vehicles were heading for the continent by sea and air. Britain has 55,000 troops permanently in West Germany. The exercise will dispatch another 60,000 to join them, 34,000 by air and 26,000 by sea. Forty thousand of the reinforcements are members of the part-time territorial army and reservists. As Britain does not have compulsory military service, there are no longer enough regular troops to provide back-up for Western Europe's front line.

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Arafat to visit Jordan soon

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat will visit Amman "very shortly" to discuss recent Middle East developments with Jordanian leaders. Palestinian sources said Monday. He will also review the work of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint commission which met in Amman last month to discuss the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the sources said.

8 pilgrims die in Saudi bus crash

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Eight Lebanese Muslims on a pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia were killed and 18 others wounded when their bus crashed in the Saudi kingdom, the national news agency reported Monday. The government-run agency said in the report distributed in Beirut that five of the dead were from Baalbek in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon. The three other victims were from the Israeli-occupied southern third of the country. The agency gave no other details. Muslims from all countries of the world travel to Saudi Arabia every year at this time to make their pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrines in the Saudi cities of Mecca and Medina.

Iraqi minister to visit Bonn

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrives Tuesday for a three-day visit in Bonn, where he can expect to hear appeals for an end to his country's war with Iran. Mr. Aziz's trip to Bonn comes just weeks after West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's visit to Iran in July. Mr. Genscher was the first European Community foreign minister to visit Tehran since the Iranian revolution five years ago. During his Bonn visit, Mr. Aziz is also scheduled to meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker.

Minehunters rescue Hungarian seaman

CAIRO (AP) — U.S. mine hunters took time off from search operations in the Red Sea over the weekend to go to the rescue of a Hungarian seaman suffering from a life-threatening heart ailment, the U.S. embassy said Monday. The mercy mission on Sunday involved two U.S. Navy ships, a medical team and three helicopters hops to administer aid on the spot in the Gulf of Suez, the Red Sea's north western branch, and fly the seaman to Cairo for hospital treatment, an embassy statement said. Disclosure of the humanitarian aid came as multinational clearance operation in the vital east-west sea route entered its 18th day without turning up any mines by any of the participants — the United States, Britain, France, Italy and Egypt. The U.S. Navy's transport ship Shrewsbury, carrying four RH-53D Sea Stallion minehunting helicopters, and the navy-leased oceanographic survey vessel Harkness have been operating in the middle sector of the Suez Gulf since Aug. 17.

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Gemayel meets Assad to break Lebanon deadlock

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel had talks with Syria's President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Monday aimed at breaking a deadlock in Lebanon's National Unity government over a security plan and political reforms, Presidential Palace sources said.

Mr. Gemayel was accompanied by Simon Kassis, director of army intelligence, and National Security Advisor Michel Samaha, the sources said. They were expected back in Beirut Monday night. The talks followed a meeting in Damascus late Sunday night between Druze leader Walid Junblatt and Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Druze radio said they discussed security and political issues but did not elaborate. Mr. Junblatt returned to Beirut early Monday. The Gemayel-Assad summit comes amid frustration among

political discussions at a meeting Tuesday. Both sides have appealed to Damascus, which has acted as arbiter in Lebanon since formation of the government of Muslim and Christian leaders last May, and the summit is considered crucial to getting the peace process back underway.

Muslim cabinet ministers in Beirut at what they say is the government's failure to press on with national reconciliation by starting work on reforms to give Muslims a greater share of power. They have refused to permit the deployment of army troops outside the capital under a government peace plan until the government starts on reform talks. Mr. Gemayel has long held that pacification through disengagement of rival forces should come before political discussions can take place. However, the cabinet had last week agreed to start

the two main opposition leaders in the cabinet. Mr. Junblatt and Shi'ite militia leader Nabih

Berri, have bitterly criticised Mr. Gemayel and what they call his "regime" in the past few days.

On Saturday Mr. Berri said "the government has not achieved anything at all" during its four months in office, despite its pacification of the capital.

It had failed to rebuild the army, introduce political reforms or promulgate a new defence law prepared by the military command, he said.

"Right now the whole of Lebanon is like a hijacked plane that is still flying but its fuel is running out..."

"The fact is that we are neither in a truce nor in a state of lasting peace. We are oscillating between a state of half peace and half war," Mr. Berri said.

Mr. Junblatt Sunday called government efforts to extend its control beyond Beirut "a waste of time," and attacked the Falangist Party to which Mr. Gemayel formerly belonged as "fascist."

PLO factions to continue efforts for reconciliation with Syria

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Senior officials of factions in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who concluded a two-day meeting Monday in Algiers, decided to meet again after ten days in an effort to give a chance for a fresh Algerian-South Yemeni mediation effort to reconcile the PLO leadership with Syria.

Senior PLO officials in Algiers told the Jordan Times that Algeria and South Yemen will try to persuade four-Syrian backed Palestinian dissident groups to join a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue prior to the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

According to a political and organisational agreement ratified in Algiers last July by Fateh, the mainstream, Palestinian commando group, and a faction "democratic alliance", the PNC is to be held in September after a "comprehensive political and organisational agreement" among Palestinian factions.

However, all efforts to fix a final date for the PNC have failed so far due to the rejection of the Palestinian dissidents, who function within the framework of a "national alliance", to join in a dialogue with the central committee of Fateh and to the failure so far of Arab and international efforts to reconcile the Fateh leadership with Syria.

Well informed Palestinian sources in Amman, however, Monday told the Jordan Times that Syria has informed Algiers that it will pressure the "national alliance" to enter a dialogue with the central committee of Fateh and hence attend the next PNC session.

The "national alliance" includes Saika, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), rebels within the Fateh movement and the Popular Struggle Front.

A Damascus-based "democratic alliance" official told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview that the decision to adjourn the meeting stemmed from the five factions' desire "to reconcile Fateh with Syria" before the convening of the PNC and to

avoid a split in the PLO.

The official, who asked not to be named, said that the five factions "will strive not to delay the PNC under any pressure unless there are guarantees that the national alliance will enter a direct dialogue with the Fateh Central Committee."

Ever since last June, the "democratic alliance", which groups the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestinian Communist Party and the Palestine Liberation Front, had been engaged in a series of painstaking talks with the "national alliance" to join in a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue on the basis of the Aden-Alger agreement. But the talks reached a deadlock because the "national alliance" stipulated the ouster of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat as a basis of such a dialogue; a condition which is vehemently rejected by the Fateh Central Committee chaired by Mr. Arafat.

The "democratic alliance" believes that the future status of Mr. Arafat should be decided at the PNC.

Phase 1 of Iraqi oil pipeline to end in 1986

BAGHDAD (R) — The first phase of an Iraqi oil pipeline to carry crude to the Red Sea Port of Yanbu will be completed early in 1986, according to a senior Iraqi oil official.

Oil Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul-Moneim Alwan also told the magazine Hurras Al Watan that the line's capacity would be 500,000 barrels per day (BPD), linking the southern Iraqi terminal of Fao, closed by the Iran-Iraq war, with a trans-Saudi pipeline already in existence.

The second stage of the project, involving a new pipeline independent of the Saudi line, is expected to boost Iraq's oil export capacity by about 1.6 million BPD.

Iraq's current oil exports through a pipeline across Turkey to the Mediterranean are running at about one million BPD. Meanwhile tankers are continuing to call at Iran's Kharg Island and oil terminal, although traffic has slowed over the past month with customers balking at prices charged for Iranian crude, Gulf oil traders said Monday.

They dismissed press reports that Iran had closed the terminal until Sept. 10 to repair severe damage to jetties caused by Iraqi air raids.

One trader said he had been in touch with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Monday, and was assured Kharg remained open to tankers.

In London, Lloyd's list also carried a denial by NIOC officials that Kharg was closed.

U.K. unions vote to support miners

BRIGHTON, England (R) — Britain's trades union movement committed itself Monday to "total support" of the country's striking coalminers after a tumultuous debate.

The Trades Union Congress (TUC), representing 10 million members of 98 unions, voted overwhelmingly to back the miners in their fight to save pits and jobs.

Before the vote, fresh talks were announced in London between the miners and the state-run National Coal Board and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government.

Arthur Scargill, the Marxist leader of the Miners' Union, brought the conference to its feet in a wild cheering ovation in answer to his appeal for support.

Leaders of the key Steel and Power Unions were hissed, booed and slow-handclapped by the 1,200 delegates when they spoke out against the move.

The decision appeared to thrust the trades union movement into an all-out struggle with the state-run National Coal Board and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government.

The TUC had not until now involved itself directly in the coal dispute, which is over the board's plans to close pits deemed uneconomic and to shed thousands of jobs. Three quarters of the country's 180,000 miners have joined the strike.

It was far from clear how far Monday's vote would translate into physical support.

The vote came hours after Ian MacGregor, chairman of the coal board, announced that talks on the dispute would resume shortly, possibly later this week.

Moscow says space arms talks impossible

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said Monday proposed space weapons talks with the United States were impossible and reaffirmed its tough conditions for reviving negotiations on nuclear arms.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vladimir Lomeiko told a press briefing that as far as the Kremlin was concerned it had not received a positive reply to its call for talks on preventing the militarisation of space to begin in Vienna on Sept. 18.

"I must emphasise that these bilateral negotiations are impossible because of the position of the USA," he said.

Washington has declared it still wants to begin the talks on the set date and will send a delegation to Vienna.

Mr. Lomeiko said such statements amounted to "talking around the negotiations" and did not answer the Soviet proposal.

Western diplomats said the spokesman's remarks hardened President Konstantin Chernenko's pessimistic comments on

the space talks in a weekend interview and indicated that Moscow had no intention of sending negotiators to Vienna.

The Soviet Union has insisted that the talks are restricted solely to space arms and said they should be accompanied by a moratorium on tests of anti-satellite weapons.

Washington has said it wants to raise the issue of nuclear weapons at the negotiations and made no response to the call for a moratorium.

Mr. Lomeiko said the U.S. attitude to the talks meant discussion of the space weapons issue would now be carried on at the U.N.-sponsored disarmament conference in Geneva.

The spokesman rebutted speculation in the West that Moscow was softening its conditions for a resumption of talks on nuclear arms by restating its demand for the prior withdrawal of new U.S. medium-range missiles from Western Europe.

Mr. Chernenko had hinted in his interview that the Kremlin might be ready to resume talks on strategic weapons if Washington accepted its conditions for the Vienna space talks.

But Mr. Lomeiko said Monday that the negotiations on both medium-range and strategic nuclear forces had been halted by deployment of the new American missiles and it was up to Washington to revive them by removing these "obstacles".

Asked specifically about Mr. Chernenko's comments, he gave a much tougher interpretation of the president's words than commentators and some officials in the U.S.

He said that if an agreement on a space weapons ban was reached in Vienna this would "demonstrate the political will of both parties to reach agreement on other issues".

Western diplomats said his comments indicated that Moscow would not regard U.S. acceptance of Soviet conditions for the space weapons talks as sufficient reason to resume the strategic arms talks.

Commenting on U.S.-Soviet

relations in general, Mr. Lomeiko said the question of a summit meeting between Presidents Mr. Reagan and Mr. Chernenko was "not on the agenda".

Moscow had in the past expressed its readiness for such a meeting but Washington's response had been "absolutely negative", he added.

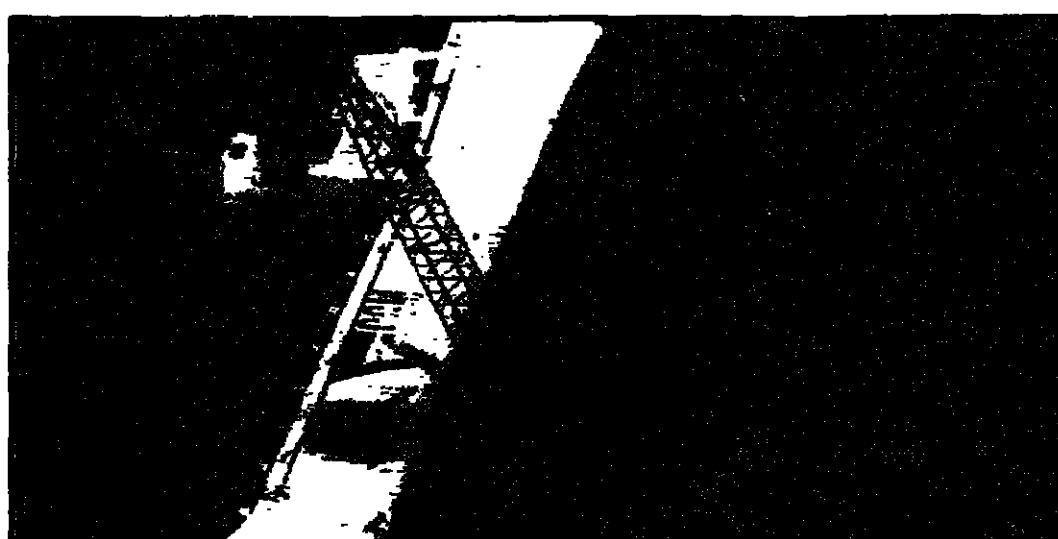
Mr. Lomeiko was asked if an interview given by Chernenko to the Communist Party daily Pravda at the weekend meant he had ended his vacation and was back at work in Moscow.

"The fact that Mr. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko gave these answers... shows he is carrying out his duties as general secretary of the Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet," Mr. Lomeiko said. He did not elaborate.

The Communist leader, 73 next week, has not been seen in public for seven weeks and there is growing speculation among both Russians and Foreign diplomats that he has been taken ill.

Montreal blast kills three

MONTREAL (R) — Three people were killed and several others injured when a bomb exploded Monday morning at Montreal's central train station, police said. The bomb exploded at 1422 GMT, railway officials said. Police evacuated the building as a search was made for any further explosive. Witnesses said about 150 people were waiting in the station to take a train to Ottawa when the blast occurred. "It was a terrible explosion, it seemed to be in the lockers," one witness said. "Everybody was thrown on the floor... some people's clothes were afire." There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. "Everybody was thrown on the floor," one witness said. "I was one of the lucky ones... some people looked really seriously injured, there was so much confusion." The bomb was apparently left in a locker, near the ticket-selling booths at the busy station filled with travellers on this last of the three-day Labour Day holiday weekend.



SALVAGE UNDERWAY: The partially three by six metre hole in the side to lift out 30 submerged French freighter Mont Louis, lies in shallow waters off the Belgian coast Monday with a fluoride (AP wire photo)

Peres says Israel may hold new elections to solve political deadlock

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Labour Party leader Shimon Peres said Monday new elections may be needed to solve Israel's six-week political deadlock after efforts to form a national unity government with the right-wing Likud suddenly collapsed.

Mr. Peres told army radio in an interview that he would approach the heads of small religious parties again to see if they would consider entering a narrow-based coalition with Labour.

Three days ago Mr. Peres and caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud Party, who have been negotiating since July's general election, ended in stalemate, reported they were close to agreement on a unity coalition.

In a dramatic turnaround Sunday, Mr. Shamir made new demands and negotiations broke down.

Mr. Peres, clearly angry, told army radio: "If there is not a surprising change (by Mr. Shamir), I fear a national unity government will not be formed."

Mr. Peres warned that Israel's economic plight was catastrophic and said he would ask the religious party leaders, who control 12 pivotal parliamentary seats, if they wanted to take responsibility for new elections.

Mr. Peres said he would ask them: "If you think the country can stand new elections, fair enough."

Newspaper reports said Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir had discussed taking turns to be prime minister, each serving 25 months.

Mr. Shamir, under pressure from Likud hawks, asked Sunday that the post be rotated every year.

Mr. Peres Monday termed the idea ridiculous and said it would reduce the prime minister's status to that of a minor official.

In a separate radio interview, Mr. Shamir defended his action, saying there had been "nothing

sacred" about the original unity coalition proposals and Likud wanted changes.

Local press reports said Mr. Shamir toughened his negotiating stance after running into strong criticism from Likud politicians at a heated party meeting.

Likud, which gained three fewer seats than Labour in the July election, is demanding that the next government continues the Jewish settlement drive in occupied Arab land.

Labour won 44 seats in Israel's July 23 election — more than any other but not enough to permit Mr. Peres to form a 61-seat parliamentary majority with the party's natural allies.

He has the committed support of enough small parties to give him 54 seats.

Mr. Peres met Monday with leaders of the uncommitted four-member National Religious Party to seek its support.

2 Lebanese killed in Istanbul explosion

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Two Lebanese nationals were killed in Istanbul when a Lebanese-registered car exploded in the city-centre early Monday, police said.

Police said it was believed a powerful bomb caused the explosion which wrecked the car and several others in a parking lot.

A police source said the two dead were carrying Lebanese identity cards but he would not give their names. The sources said investigations are continuing.

Meanwhile in Stockholm, Sweden, an alleged spokesman for the Armenian Revolutionary Army (ARA) claimed responsibility for "several bomb attacks" in Istanbul early Monday in an anonymous telephone call to the Associated Press.

The spokesman read a communique which said the group "has carried out several bombings in Istanbul against governmental institutions on Monday" and would continue its attacks against Turkish targets all over the world. He did not give any further details.

The ARA claimed responsibility for the July 1983 attack against the Turkish embassy in Brussels, where the spokesman said "a Turkish diplomat was executed," and "the suicide attack" the same month at the Turkish embassy in Lisbon, Portugal. The latest bombing occurred in Vienna last month, the anonymous caller said, without giving any details.

On behalf of the ARA, he also accused the Turkish government of genocide in 1915, when he said 1.5 million Armenians were killed after being harassed by the Turkish authorities.

The ARA had no choice but to "continue and intensify its political struggle" since the Turkish government refused negotiation and cooperation, he said.

The anonymous ARA spokesman said the aim of the armed struggle was to enable exiled Armenians to return to Turkey. The number of Armenians currently living in Turkey amounts to 100,000, he said.

Israel improves defences in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli chief of the army engineering corps said Monday Israel was spending between \$12 and \$18 million to improve its defences along the confrontation line with Syria in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Israel Radio said.

Brig-Gen. Yehuda Cohen told the radio that Syria was increasing its presence in the area and Israel had to respond by building new installations there.

"The Syrians are strengthening themselves by adding forces, by adding obstacles, minefields, ditches and so on," he said. "We have to give the proper answer and are in the middle of a major engineering project which we hope to finish by winter."

Israel has already mounted sophisticated surveillance devices on Jabal Barouk mountain ridge, which allows it to monitor movements in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and Syria. Its artillery is dug in within range of Damascus.

The Israeli army would need four to six months to dismantle its equipment and fortifications in Lebanon if the government decided to withdraw, the army's chief engineer said.

Lacking a withdrawal decision, the army was adding extensive fortifications all along the Syrian front in eastern Lebanon, Gen. Cohen said.

Israeli military sources say that Syrian troops have not tried to breach Israel's defences, but that Palestinian commandos operating from behind Syrian lines often have infiltrated Israeli-held territory.

The Israeli government has said it will withdraw all troops from Lebanon as soon as it can adequately secure Israel's northern border, but has refused to put a deadline on withdrawal.

'Islamic Jihad' claims further blows at Saudis

BEIRUT (R) — An anonymous telephone caller claiming to speak for a militant Muslim group said Monday it would strike a "deadly blow" against the Saudi monarchy in the Muslim holy city of Mecca.

The caller, claiming to represent a shadowy group known as "Islamic Jihad" (Islamic holy war), told a foreign news agency Saudi Arabia's withdrawal of its diplomats from Beirut last week after the sacking of its consulate-general by Shi'ite Muslim gunmen would not spare it from further actions.

"Despite the decision to withdraw representatives of the Saudi regime from Islamic Beirut, we wish to advise the kingdom's rulers that they are not immune from our strikes," the caller said. "The deadly blow will only be delivered in holy Mecca to purify the holy mosque from the thieves who have seized and desecrated it."

In Riyadh, state-run radio said earlier the government had withdrawn its diplomats from Beirut "to prevent embassy staff from being killed... since they had been threatened."

It also wanted to relieve the Lebanese government of "a burden it might not be able to shoulder at present," the radio added.

The Saudi radio report was the first news that Saudi diplomats in Beirut had received death threats.

Saudi sources in Beirut and a Lebanese Foreign Ministry source had earlier said withdrawal of the two diplomats resulted from the Aug. 24 sacking of the consulate.

Speaking with a Lebanese accent, the caller read a statement saying: "It is of no avail for you, the sons of Saud, to use the pretext of disorder in Islamic Beirut to pull out your representative."

"The alleged disorder is in fact only the beginning of an Islamic uprising which will initially spread to the oil (producing) and sinful countries."

Anonymous callers claiming to represent Islamic Jihad have in the past 18 months claimed responsibility for several devastating attacks on U.S. and French diplomatic and military installations in Lebanon.

Mission withdrawal will not affect Saudi commitment to Lebanon, page 2

Israel overspending on settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government is spending millions of dollars more than planned on Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territory despite an economic crisis, government economic sources said.

The sources, who spoke to Reuters on condition that they not be named, said the government had exceeded its \$360 million settlement budget within the first five months of the current fiscal year. They declined to say by how much.

"We are now well over the all-out and have no idea how to juggle the budget to find the money," one official said.

Israel's annual rate of inflation is currently running at 400 per

cent, foreign debt totals \$23 billion and foreign currency reserves are falling.

Bank of Israel figures published Sunday said foreign currency reserves fell by \$192 million last month to \$2.4 billion, well below the \$3 billion "red line" considered by economists to be minimum working level.

The economic crisis and Jewish settlements were major issues in July's general election, which ended in stalemate with neither

the ruling Likud nor the Labour Party able to assemble a majority in parliament.

The settlement issue is now an obstacle in talks between Likud and Labour on forming a "national unity government."

In the weeks before the election, the Likud government approved the establishment of 14 new settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Labour opposes building the new settlements.

The government economic official said: "There is no money to build them but the settlements lobby is exerting powerful pressure on the government to find some anyway."

The official said the gov-

ernment had also gone \$120 million over budget by increasing subsidies on fuel and basic foodstuffs in the run-up to the election.

He added that tax revenue was falling disastrously, forcing the government to print huge amounts of money to stay solvent.

Official figures show the government last month pumped a record 135 billion shekels (\$450 million) into the economy, \$15 million a day.

Tax revenue was 20 per cent lower than in the same month last year. The official said new regulations designed to keep income tax abreast of inflation were a "total failure."

Saudis indirectly approve Morocco-Libya unity pact

JEDDAH (AP) — Saudi Arabia gave an indirect approval to the recently-concluded Moroccan-Libyan unity treaty in a statement issued Monday by a Saudi government spokesman.

Asked by the Saudi Press Agency on the kingdom's stand toward the treaty, the spokesman said, "An axiom of the kingdom's foreign policy is non-interference in the affairs of sister and friendly states."

"The kingdom respects the will of these states and the pacts concluded among them while always keeping itself to consolidate its existing links with all its brethren in the Arab and Islamic worlds," the spokesman said.

Saudi Arabia "looks forward with great hope to the day when all

leaders and rulers of this nation meet on the unified objectives born of our Islamic faith and serving our just causes," the spokesman added.

The spokesman was carried shortly after King Fahd received Algerian President Chadli Benjedid who arrived to join the throngs of Muslims from all over the world currently performing pilgrimage at the Muslim shrines in Mecca and Medina. No statements were released on the talks between the Saudi and Algerian leaders.

Mr. Benjedid's ruling party has severely criticised the treaty between its two neighbours in North Africa, saying the "politics of axes are not the politics of unity."

Pakistan engineered blast at airport, Kabul charges

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's President Babrak Karmal has charged that neighbouring Pakistan engineered an airport bomb in the Afghan capital Kabul which Western diplomats said killed at least 30 people on Friday.

Mr. Karmal made the charge while visiting victims of the blast in a military hospital in Kabul, the official Kabul Radio reported.

The Radio, monitored in Islamabad, quoted Mr. Karmal as describing Pakistan military ruler General Mohammad Zia ul-Haq as a "stooge" of the United States.

"This action against the revolution has been engineered by Pakistan's military government," he said.

The Afghan authorities have said several women and children were killed when the rebel bombs went off outside heavily-guarded airport terminal, five kilometres northeast of the capital, without specifying the number.

Western diplomats and Afghan exiles have said at least 30 people were killed and 100 injured by what was probably the deadliest strike by rebels in the capital.

They said that in November 1982, four bomb blasts in restaurants used by the Afghan secret police killed more than 20 people. Smaller blasts had occurred since

then.

Friday's explosion, first announced by the Kabul Radio, came after a string of guerrilla raids on Kabul's Khawaja Rawash International Airport, which doubles as a key air base for Soviet and Afghan aircraft.

Western diplomats in Islamabad and New Delhi reported later that the blast occurred in the check-in area and that it probably hit passengers waiting for a flight on the state-owned Ariana Airlines to Tashkent, capital of Soviet Uzbekistan.

They said members of a reception committee waiting for two flights bringing back children from holiday in the Soviet Union could have been among the casualties.

Afghanistan has often accused Pakistan of helping the rebels. But Pakistan has denied the charge and says it only provides humanitarian help to an estimated three million Afghan refugees who fled to Pakistan following the December 1979 Soviet military intervention in their country.

Last month, Islamabad reported a series of cross-border attacks into Pakistan by Afghan artillery and air force in which it said more than 50 people were killed. Kabul denied it made the attacks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amman to host agricultural talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of subjects relating to agricultural productivity in the Arab World will be discussed during the sixth technical meeting of the Arab Agricultural Engineers Federation (AAEF) due to be held in Amman on Sept. 24. The AAEF's higher council and the executive committee will also hold its meetings in Amman during the technical conference.

Jordanian lawyers to attend Tunis meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) will take part in the 15th Arab lawyers conference, scheduled to be held in Tunis on Oct. 25. The conference will discuss a number of issues pertaining to human rights, basic freedoms, conditions of women in the Arab World in general and in the occupied Arab territories in particular, in addition to unifying Arab legislations and legal terms.

JPA to take part in Tripoli conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA) will take part in the ninth Arab pharmacists conference scheduled to be held on Nov. 6 in Tripoli, Libya. The conference will discuss a number of subjects pertaining to medicine and misuse of drugs, in addition to medicine rationing. The JPA has drawn up a working paper on the Jordanian experiment in this field to be presented to the conference.

\$121,000 robbed in west Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Three gunmen Monday commandeered the car of a municipal payroll courier and his companion and robbed them of 800,000 Lebanese pounds (\$121,000), security sources said. The robbery occurred in broad daylight on Corniche Mazraa Boulevard, one of the busiest streets in mainly Muslim West Beirut, the sources said. The gunmen forced both occupants out of the car, then escaped in it and another car used in the holdup. The courier's car was later found abandoned a few blocks away, the sources said.

Khomeini rebukes mullahs for political interference

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has sharply rebuked the mullahs (clergy) for straying too far from the mosques and interfering in politics when they were not needed.

Addressing the guardian council — overseer of the constitution — in a speech reported fully by Tehran Radio on Sunday, Ayatollah Khomeini said "some Friday prayer leaders and mullahs cause people to withdraw their support because of their uncalculated interference in government affairs."

As mullahs have gained an increasingly prominent hold over the reins of government, Ayatollah

The 81-year old Ayatollah added: "I have repeatedly said the clergy must have a guiding role and they should not seek to rule the country."

He cited the case of a mullah who told a governor-general — the highest civil authority in a province — to either do as he was told or leave his post. Such behaviour, Ayatollah Khomeini said, "is weakening the government and a cause for making people hate mullahs."

As mullahs have gained an increasingly prominent hold over the reins of government, Ayatollah

15 die in Alexandria house crash

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — Workers continued to clear rubble from the site of a building that collapsed here on Saturday night as the death toll rose to 19, officials said Monday.

Alexandria District Attorney Muhammad Diab said the building's owner, Basyuni Madani, 66, was being held on four charges of building without a license, accidental homicide and injury, and destruction of property.

He said 15 people had been wounded in the collapse. The owner, a carpenter who built the seven-story building himself, set up a workshop on the ground floor in 1978 and progressively added floors of apartments.

The newspaper said the five-year-old building housing around 50 persons, collapsed early Sunday but no indication was given as to why it went down.

'Mission withdrawal will not affect Saudi commitment to Lebanon'

JEDDAH (AP) — Saudi Arabia affirmed its commitment to Lebanon's causes would not be affected by the withdrawal of its diplomatic mission from Beirut through a statement distributed overnight Monday by the Saudi Press Agency.

A Saudi Foreign Ministry official was quoted as stressing that the withdrawal of the embassy staff two days earlier was only a security precaution.

The kingdom, he said, "will pursue its leading role in unifying Lebanese ranks, achieving reconciliation and supporting Lebanon in all fields to help preserve its unity, independence and territorial safety."

Saudi Charge d'Affaires Abu Bakr Raft and his staff left the Lebanese capital on Saturday, and questions were raised as to whether Saudi Arabia would continue to push for an end to Lebanon's civil strife and would deliver a promised \$450 million reconstruction grant.

The unidentified official quoted by the Saudi agency said the security conditions in Lebanon were not propitious for the safety of the Saudi embassy staff and they were withdrawn after receiving murder threats. "The Lebanese government was already burdened enough and there was no need to over-burden it under the present circumstances," the official said.

According to the official, the staff had been returned to the strife-torn Lebanese capital only to help with processing visa applications for the Muslims in Lebanon who wished to travel to the kingdom for the annual pilgrimage at Mecca and Medina.

The staff remained till the deadline for the visas expired a week ago despite an attack on the consulate earlier this month, the official said.

Pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim stoned and set afire a building at the Saudi embassy compound on Aug.

24 and hoisted pictures of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The Saudi cabinet chaired by King Fahd later issued a statement rebuking the Lebanese authorities for negligence. Lebanese security police, who were on guard at the mission, did nothing to prevent the attack, according to news reports and Beirut newspapers.

An editorial in the Lebanese English-language Daily Star Monday criticised the attack as "an extremely costly object lesson to all Lebanese of the mindless nature of mob rule," noting it could cost Lebanon millions of dollars in financial aid from the kingdom.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami has apologised for the attack and Information Minister Joseph Skaff has said that the Lebanese authorities are investigating the incident and whoever was found responsible would be punished.

Two freed Britons return to London from Tripoli

LONDON (R) — Two Britons released by Libya after being detained there for more than four months returned home to an emotional welcome from family and friends Sunday.

Douglas Ledingham, 35, a manager of the airline British Caledonian, and 45-year-old engineer George Bush were among six Britons held but not brought to trial since the shooting of a policeman outside the Libyan embassy in London last April.

Their release came during a visit by four British opposition parliamentarians who said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was interested in an exchange with six Libyan detainees in Britain.

But London has made clear

there was no question of a swap. "The Libyans took great pains to treat us well," Mr. Ledingham told reporters on arrival at London's Heathrow Airport.

"We have no bitterness. The Libyans have been very good," Mr. Bush echoed. He said he had left most of his possessions, including 12,000 (\$15,700), behind in Libya.

Mr. Ledingham said they would happily return to Libya. "But I wouldn't want a guarantee that I would be picked up by the revolutionary groups again," he added.

Britain broke off diplomatic relations with the Libya over the London shooting.

Qadhafi lifts ban on drinking in Libya

TRIPOLI (Libya AP) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi has ended a 15-year-old ban on the consumption of alcohol in Libya, government officials reported Sunday. Under the new rule, drinking would be permitted only in private homes.

Col. Qadhafi who has had near absolute power over Libya for 15 years, also said he was ready to retire until a coup attempt in May.

The headline Arab leader's remarks were made during a four-hour speech Saturday night to the General People's Congress, Libya's equivalent of a legislature. The official English translation from Arabic was not released until Sunday night.

"For a long time now I had decided to leave Tripoli after 15 years I have spent here, and stay somewhere in the desert where there is no town or bourgeois life," he told several hundred people packed into the hall.

"I seriously thought about

going to another country, either Syria or Lebanon which is the area on fire near the Zionist enemy," he added.

But that was before a small band of men unsuccessfully tried to storm the barracks inside Tripoli where he lives, Col. Qadhafi said. The May 8 attack ended when the men, perhaps 15 in all, were driven back to an apartment building and killed by security forces.

Col. Qadhafi's remarks about drinking were not provided in the English or French texts of the speech but Libyan press spokesman said he had indeed changed the rules.

"He said this is a free country and that people should be free in their homes so they can drink alcohol if they want to make it," said Mohammed Rwmli, head of the foreign press office. He did not know why the remarks had been left out of the texts.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1415 KHz	639, 720, 1415 KHz
MAIN CHANNEL	6:00 Newsweek 6:30 Guitars Workshop 6:45 Financial News 6:55 Religious 7:00 World News 7:00 24 Hours: News Summary 7:30 New Ideas 7:40 Book Choice 7:45 The World Today 8:00 Newsweek 8:30 Thomas Tallord: Engineer 8:45 World News 9:00 24 Hours: News Summary 9:30 Hot Air 9:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:00 Reflections 10:15 Double Act 10:30 Haunted 11:00 World News 11:00 British 11:00 World News 11:00 World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 What's New 12:00 Rich Man, Poor Man 12:30 Modern Masterpiece 13:00 World News 13:00 News about Britain 13:15 Letter from London 13:25 Scotland This Week 13:30 Sports International 14:00 Radio News 14:15 World of Faith 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:00 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 A Jolly Good Show 16:30 Frank Muir Goes Into... 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:00 Commentary 18:15 Omnibus 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:00 Meridian 19:40 Scotland This Week 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Nature Notebook 20:45 The Farming World 21:00 Outlook: News Summary 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 That's Trid 22:00 World News 22:00 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Classical Record Review 22:45 World of Faith 23:15 Letter from London 23:25 Focus 23:30 These Musical Islands 24:00 World News 24:00 The World Today 24:05 Scotland This Week
FOREIGN CHANNEL	6:00 VOA Morning News on the hour: news summaries, daily business report, science and medicine, sports reports, VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary, Newsweek 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Special English Focus 20:30 Now Music USA 21:00 Newsline 21:30 Magazine Show 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA World Report
RADIO JORDAN	855 KHz, AM & 90 MHz, FM & purely on 9560 KHz, SW
6:00 Light Music	6:00 Light Music
6:30 News Desk	6:30 News Desk
6:45 Morning Show	6:45 Morning Show
7:00 News Summary	7:00 News Summary
7:15 Morning Show	7:15 Morning Show
7:30 News Summary	7:30 News Summary
7:45 Pop Session	7:45 Pop Session
8:00 News Summary	8:00 News Summary
8:15 Pop Session	8:15 Pop Session
8:30 News Bulletin	8:30 News Bulletin
8:45 News in English	8:45 News in English
9:00 Wagner Opera	9:00 Wagner Opera
9:15	9:15
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITION
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.	"Exhibition of Paintings by Jamal Badran at the Royal Cultural Centre."
CULTURAL CENTRES	SERVICE CLUBS
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 British Council 41520 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41953 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24649 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Hays Arts Centre 665195 Hussain Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.W.M.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555	Leona Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 130 p.m. Leona Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 130 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 812621.
MUSEUMS	CHURCHES
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre Museum. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubweidh, 37440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 2541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534.
PRAYER TIMES	8:48 Fajr 5:13 Sunrise Shuruq 11:30 Dhuhr 18:18 Asr 18:36 Maghreb 19:21 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT	ARRIVALS
This information is supplied by Air Jordan International Airport Ltd. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.	06:00 Cairo (MS) 06:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 06:30 Agaba (RJ) 06:45 Damascus (RJ) 06:55 Dubai, Kuwait (RJ) 07:05 Jeddah (RJ) 07:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 07:25 Dhaman (RJ) 07:35 Beirut (RJ) 07:45 Dhaman, Riyadh (SV) 07:55 Moscow (SU) 08:05 Kuwait (RJ) 08:15 London (RJ) 08:25 Larnaca (RJ) 08:35 Baghdad (LA) 08:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 08:55 New York, Vienna (RJ) 09:05 Istanbul (RJ) 09:15 Bucharest (RJ) 09:25 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 09:35 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 09:45 Beirut (MEA) 09:55 Tripoli (RJ) 10:05 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ) 10:15 Athens (OA) 10:25 Cairo (MS) 10:35 Larnaca (RJ) 10:45 Beirut (RJ) 10:55 Baghdad (LA) 11:05 Doha (RJ) 11:15 Cairo (RJ) 11:25 Agaba (RJ) 11:35 Damascus (RJ) 11:45 Dubai, Kuwait (RJ) 11:55 Jeddah (RJ) 12:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 12:15 Dhaman (RJ) 12:25 Beirut (RJ) 12:35 Dhaman, Riyadh (SV) 12:45 Moscow (SU) 12:55 Kuwait (RJ) 13:05 London (RJ) 13:15 Larnaca (RJ) 13:25 Baghdad (LA) 13:35 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 13:45 New York, Vienna (RJ) 13:55 Istanbul (RJ) 14:05 Bucharest (RJ) 14:15 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 14:25 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 14:35 Beirut (MEA) 14:45 Tripoli (RJ) 14:55 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ) 15:05 Athens (OA) 15:15 Cairo (MS) 15:25 Larnaca (RJ) 15:35 Beirut (RJ) 15:45 Baghdad (LA) 15:55 Doha (RJ) 16:05 Cairo (RJ) 16:15 Agaba (RJ) 16:25 Damascus (RJ) 16:35 Dubai, Kuwait (RJ) 16:45 Jeddah (RJ) 16:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 17:05 Dhaman (RJ) 17:15 Beirut (RJ) 17:25 Dhaman, Riyadh (SV) 17:35 Moscow (SU) 17:45 Kuwait (RJ) 17:55 London (RJ) 18:05 Larnaca (RJ) 18:15 Baghdad (LA) 18:25 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 18:35 New York, Vienna (RJ) 18:45 Istanbul (RJ) 18:55 Bucharest (RJ) 19:05 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 19:15 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 19:25 Beirut (MEA) 19:35 Tripoli (RJ) 19:45 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ) 19:55 Athens (OA) 20:05 Cairo (MS) 20:15 Larnaca (RJ) 20:25 Beirut (RJ) 20:35 Baghdad (LA) 20:45 Doha (RJ) 20:55 Cairo (RJ) 21:05 Agaba (RJ) 21:15 Damascus (RJ) 21:25 Dubai, Kuwait (RJ) 21:35 Jeddah (RJ) 21:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 21:55 Dhaman (RJ) 22:05 Beirut (RJ) 22:15 Dhaman, Riyadh (SV) 22:25 Moscow (SU) 22:35 Kuwait (RJ) 22:45 London (RJ) 22:55 Larnaca (RJ) 23:05 Baghdad (LA) 23:15 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 23:25 New York, Vienna (RJ) 23:35 Istanbul (RJ) 23:45 Bucharest (RJ) 23:55 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 00:05 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 00:15 Beirut (MEA) 00:25 Tripoli (RJ) 00:35 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ) 00:45 Athens (OA) 00:55 Cairo (MS) 01:05 Larnaca (RJ) 01:15 Beirut (RJ) 01:25 Baghdad (LA) 01:35 Doha (RJ) 01:45 Cairo (RJ) 01:55 Agaba (RJ) 02:05 Damascus (RJ) 02:15 Dubai, Kuwait (RJ) 02:25 Jeddah (RJ) 02:35 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 02:45 Dhaman (RJ) 02:55 Beirut (RJ) 03:05 Dhaman, Riyadh (SV) 03:15 Moscow (SU) 03:25 Kuwait (RJ) 03:35 London (RJ) 03:45 Larnaca (RJ) 03:55 Baghdad (LA) 04:05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 04:15 New York, Vienna (RJ) 04:25 Istanbul (RJ) 04:35 Bucharest (RJ) 04:45 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 04:55 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 05:05 Beirut (MEA) 05:15 Tripoli (RJ) 05:25 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ) 05:35 Athens (OA) 05:45 Cairo (MS) 05:55 Larnaca (RJ) 06:05 Beirut (RJ) 06:15 Baghdad (LA) 06:25 Doha (RJ) 06:35 Cairo (RJ) 06:45 Agaba (RJ) 06:55 Damascus (RJ) 07:05 Dubai, Kuwait (RJ) 07:15 Jeddah (RJ) 07:25 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 07:35 Dhaman (RJ) 07:45 Beirut (RJ) 07:55 Dhaman, Riyadh (SV) 08:05 Moscow (SU) 08:15 Kuwait (RJ) 08:25 London

Khasawneh defends his management of APC

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The former chairman and director general of the Arab Potash Company (APC) has defended the present management of the company of trying to put the blame on him for shortcomings and problems that apparently caused the company to lose nearly JD 19.2 million in its first year of operations.

Mr. Ali Khasawneh said in an article he wrote in the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab and published Sunday that when he tendered his resignation as company director general and chairman of the APC's board of directors there were no unusual problems left behind and he voiced his surprise at the trouble the new management was trying to raise through its members, as he said, have not yet, except once, inspected the work at the company site, south of the Dead Sea nor have they looked into the activities and programmes of the company.

Mr. Khasawneh accused his successors, without mentioning any names, of trying to tarnish his name without giving him the right of reply over questions of planning and budgeting. Former Public Works Minister Awmi Al Masri took over from Mr. Khasawneh as chairman while the director-general job went to former Trade and Industry Minister Ali Nsour.

"I call for an open debate on television or radio to be attended by experts from Jordan and other countries to discuss with me subjects pertaining to the APC project in the past and the present in order to clear misconceptions," Mr. Khasawneh said in his article. He added that the new management has raised a storm about the behaviour of the former administration without due cause and

without looking into the affairs of the company.

"So far not a single instance of misconduct has been established against the former management and, on the contrary, the new management has not taken any steps designed to promote the work of the company and its projects," Mr. Khasawneh contended.

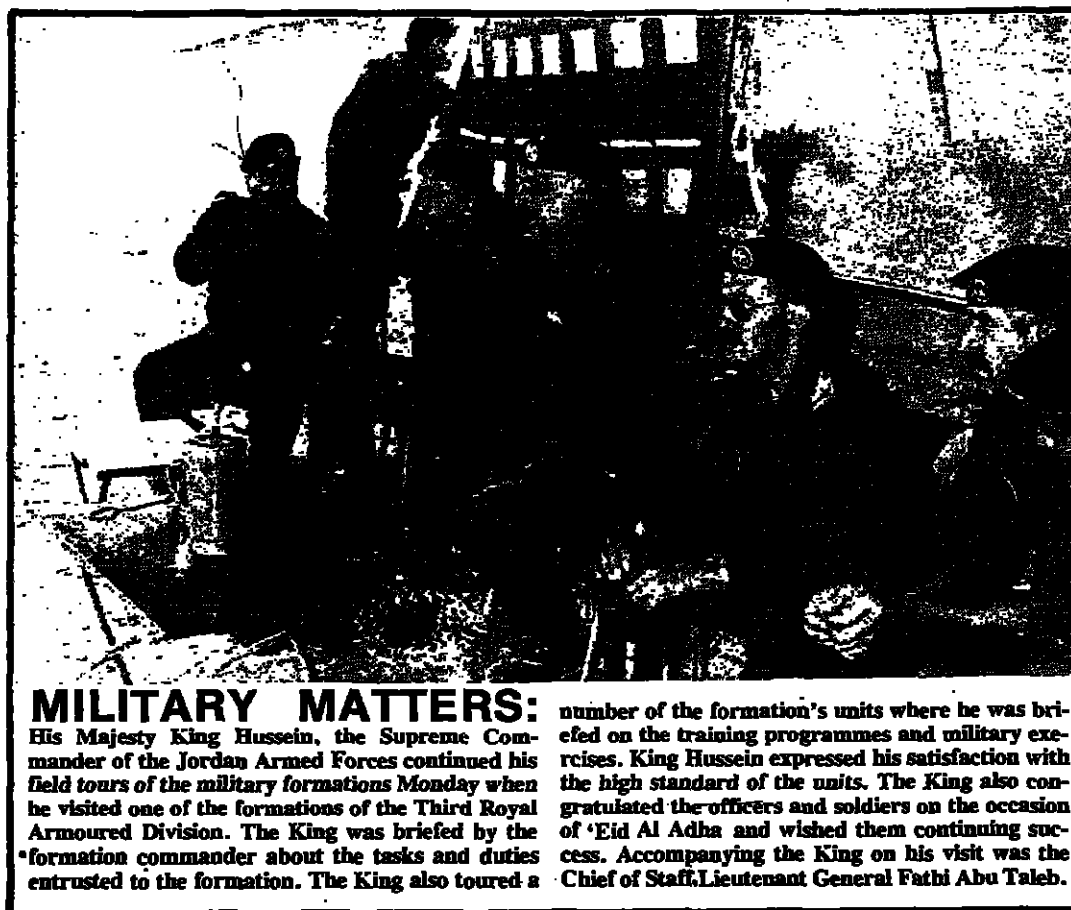
He said that any losses incurred by the company should be blamed on the new management which had allocated as port fees JD 4 million annually for exporting potash, which means spending over JD 14 on every tonne of exported potash, though a feasibility study conducted by the government recommended that only 700 fil be paid for every tonne. Mr. Khasawneh cited the example of the Jordan Phosphates mines company which he said has been paying 700 fil per tonne over the past 30 years. Mr. Khasawneh also contended that the new management has added an amount of JD 12 million to "already inflated figures" to increase "capacity" to 1,300,000 tonnes, but he did not give much more details on this point.

The former APC chairman opposed any additional expenditure on the project saying: "The project, as it is now, is capable of producing enough (potash) to meet figures mentioned in its feasibility study". The present capacity of the potash plant is 900,000 tonnes.

Mr. Khasawneh said that he had resigned his post because the cabinet had divided the two posts of manager and board chairman and he thought it would not be fit to keep the post of APC director-general after the board chairmanship has been taken away from him.

Mohammad visits PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Monday visited the Public Security Directorate (PSD) where he met with PSD Director General Lieutenant General Diab Youssef and listened to a briefing about the progress of work at the PSD.



MILITARY MATTERS:

His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces continued his field tours of the military formations Monday when he visited one of the formations of the Third Royal Armoured Division. The King was briefed by the formation commander about the tasks and duties entrusted to the formation. The King also toured a

number of the formation's units where he was briefed on the training programmes and military exercises. King Hussein expressed his satisfaction with the high standard of the units. The King also congratulated the officers and soldiers on the occasion of 'Eid Al Adha and wished them continuing success. Accompanying the King on his visit was the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb.

Irbid complex contract signed

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement for building a market for the Civil Service Consumers Corporation (CSCC) in Irbid was signed Monday between the CSCC and the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS).

Under this agreement the JESORS will carry out the project for a CSCC market in Irbid on an area of 2,500 square metres at a

total cost of JD 275,000. The project comprises two shops, the first for foodstuffs while the second is for clothes. Each will have an area of 600 square metres. In addition, a large store, offices, utilities and car parks will be constructed. CSCC Managing Director Jameel Farahneh said that the corporation's project is expected to be completed within 12 months from the signing date of the agreement.

He also pointed out that the Irbid market project is the first of several markets which the CSCC is planning to set up in the country in order to achieve its goals and to serve beneficiaries in the best way.

The agreement was signed by CSCC Director General Nabil Abu Al Huda and JESORS Director General Sami Al 'Ammer on behalf of its board of directors.

Crime rate escalates by 16 per cent

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thefts, robberies and other crimes increased in Jordan during July 1984 by 16 per cent over those committed in the same month of last year, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department.

The bulletin said that in July this year, a total of 1,846 crimes were committed compared with 1,591

in July 1983. It also said that crimes committed in July registered an increase of 40 per cent over those committed in the previous month. Most of the crimes were thefts, robberies and personal attacks.

The report said there were 1,494 road accidents in Jordan during July which caused the death of 73 people and the injury

of 820 others. July 1983 registered 1,368 road accidents which caused the death of 69 persons and the injury of 800 others.

The bulletin also said that during July there was one murder in Amman, two others in Ma'an and Karak and three cases of manslaughter which occurred in Amman, Zarqa and Balqa.

Jordan heads advisory commission meetings in Vienna

Delegates request UNRWA to resume refugee rations

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Assistant Under-secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and Deputy Head of the Jordanian delegations to the meetings of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Advisory Commission Usama Tahboub Monday said that Arab delegations had called on the UNRWA commissioner general to reinstate the distribution of rations to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as well as in the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees.



Usama Tahboub

Mr. Tahboub was speaking to the Jordan Times after his arrival from Vienna where he attended the four-day meetings of the UNRWA Advisory Commission which started on Aug. 30.

Mr. Tahboub also said that the Arab delegations called on the Commissioner General of UNRWA to relocate the agency's headquarters to Lebanon or, if this is not possible, to Amman. They also requested that UNRWA appoints local staff in

lieu of international personnel because local staff have proved efficient, according to the report of the joint inspection unit which visited the area in 1982.

During the meetings, Mr. Tahboub added, participants discussed the draft annual report of the Commissioner General, in preparation for submitting it to the United Nations General Assembly for debate during its regular session, to be held at a later date this month.

Jordan's delegation to the meetings comprised Mr. Ghaleb Barakat, Jordan's permanent representative in Geneva, Mr. Khalil Sawahri, the director of the studies department at the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and Mr. Issam Daghistani from the ministry. The Advisory Commission of UNRWA groups Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Britain, the United States, France, Belgium, Japan and Turkey.

WAJ to attend Arab water resources talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) will take part in a four-day meeting of a working group in charge of drawing up the principles and guidelines for evaluating the water resources situation in the Arab World. The meeting will be held in Paris on Sept. 10.

Representing the WAJ in the meetings, to be supervised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), will be the assistant director of the water department, Mr. Badr Hirallah.

Obeidat issues diplomatic, tender regulation circulars

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat Monday issued a communique instructing all ministries, government departments and public institutions to contact the diplomatic missions accredited to the Royal Court through the Foreign Ministry.

The new procedure aims at facilitating work relations between the government ministries, departments and public institutions and the missions, in accordance with the proper procedures, in order to save time and to define responsibilities, the communique said.

The prime minister Monday also issued a circular to all gov-

ernment ministries, departments, public institutions and large companies, in whose capital the government has a share of no less than 25 per cent, asking them to fully abide by the government Works Regulation No. 39 for the year 1982.

The communique also said that all tenders and invitations to tender should be announced publicly, studied and evaluated in order to give equal opportunities to all qualified parties to bid for the implementation of projects, in accordance with the classification table issued by the government Tenders Department.

Innovative marketing, varied programmes boost tourism to Petra

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

PETRA — There is something about south Jordan and Englishmen that seems to blend well. Perhaps it's the ample noonday sun, or the rich legacy of thousands of years of history that Englishmen can so readily appreciate.

In the early and mid-19th century, a succession of English travellers ventured into the area of Transjordan, discovering and exploring the varied antiquities of the land. An Anglo-Swiss traveller, Johann Burckhardt, "rediscovered" Petra for the Western world in 1812. And a century later, of course, there was that other famous Englishman, Lawrence, who made quite a reputation for himself in the terrain of south Jordan.

Today, yet another Englishman has started to make his mark on the land of south Jordan, striking a delightful blend of fantasy, practicality, romanticism and innovation that should leave its mark on the Jordanian tourism sector for many years to come.

If Burckhardt rediscovered Petra, and Lawrence helped the forces of the Sharif Hussein of Mecca free it from Ottoman control, Bill Trustram Eve may help establish it permanently on the map of the world's great — and well-served — tourism sites.

Bill Eve is the general manager of the Petra Forum Hotel, the 82-room four-star hotel that opened its doors a year ago — and has not stopped experimenting and innovating since.

The hotel is owned by the Jordanian government, via the Hotels and Restaurants Corporation, but it is managed under contract by Forum Hotels, the four-star subsidiary of the Intercontinental chain.

In the past year, the quality of

the hotel and Mr. Eve's lively new ideas have started to stimulate new domestic and international tourism markets that Jordan rarely tapped before. He has also started to attract tourists to Petra from around the Middle East, by actively promoting its attractions in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities.

Commendable initiative

As such, the brief experience to date of the Petra Forum Hotel's marketing and service strategy may cause other hoteliers, travel agents, airline executives and tourism officials to see the possibilities that could be realised if Jordan's rich tourism attractions were fully exploited and imaginatively marketed.

Petra has traditionally attracted day visitors, who made the round-trip from Amman or Aqaba, spending only a few hours within the mountain-ringed ancient ruins of the sprawling Nabataean capital city. The old resthouse catered to those dedicated Petra enthusiasts who wanted to spend a night or two in the area, particularly to enjoy the rare splendours of an early morning entry into Petra through the siq. But the standard of rooms, facilities and service at the old resthouse was just adequate, and the overnight visitor was offered nothing more than basic room and board.

The government seemed to recognise that something was lacking, and therefore decided to build the new four-star hotel, with financial backing from the World Bank. In its first year of operations, the Petra Forum Hotel has started to demonstrate the country's potential for drawing new visitors to its biggest sites, and to bringing back previous visitors for longer stays.

Tourists on the increase

Individuals account for 60 per

cent of the hotel guests, and groups the remaining 40 per cent, with non-Arabs accounting for 90 per cent of all guests. The significant new market that Mr. Eve has managed to start tapping is the vast community of foreigners living and working in the oil-producing states of the Arabian Peninsula.

He has made several sales trips to Saudi Arabia with Petra antiquities inspector Niaz Shabaan, resulting in a regular stream of groups of expatriates who come to Petra for three-day trips. Many of these expatriates used to go regularly to Cyprus, but now also come to south Jordan. Besides enjoying the pleasant Petra weather, the antiquities, and the hotel's facilities, including a swimming pool, the guests often also visit Wadi Rum, Aqaba, and the King's Highway sites.

Groups arriving from northern Saudi cities by road, for example, are met at the border by bus or taxi and driven directly to the hotel. Similar arrangements can be made to meet groups flying in to Aqaba airport.

New offerings

The key to promoting new visitors to Petra, however, seems to lie not only in the availability of a competitively priced first class hotel (at rates of JD 15,400 for a twin room and JD 12,100 for a single), but also in the range of new services that the hotel has launched. Mr. Eve's imaginative English spirit has combined with the vast physical resources of the Petra area to provide hotel guests with a range of exotic options, including:

- sunrise continental breakfast at the High Place of Sacrifice, a 25-minute climb from near the theatre inside Petra.
- a picnic or mansaf lunch in a cave ten minutes beyond the Monastery, (a 45-minute hike from the museum in central Petra), a spot that Mr. Eve describes as "just around the corner from the edge of the world". The lunch is carried up to the cave on the back of a reliable donkey named Forum. Evening dinners at full moon are also arranged at the Monastery.
- picnic lunch, guided tours, and coffee and tea with the local bedouin the Beidha-Barid region, 10 minutes by car north of Petra. Beidha is a 9,000-year-old Neolithic village that was excavated, appropriately, by the noted English archaeologist Diana Kirkbride. Siq Al Barid is a miniature Petra, complete with its own siq entrance and rock-cut tombs, caves and high places.
- a guided tour and picnic lunch at Aaron's Tomb, the high-



Visitors enjoy a continental breakfast at the High Place where sacrifices took place in the city of Petra (Photo Rami G. Khouri)

heat peak overlooking the Petra region, and a rigorous two-hour climb from the centre of the city.

— lunch and a tour of nearby Shobak Castle, one of the several Crusader castles in the Petra region. A "Crusader banquet" lunch is laid on in a room open to the sky.

— on selected evenings, an authentic bedouin tent permanently set up on the hotel grounds is transformed into a lively entertainment and dining facility, with the Wadi Mousa folklore troupe performing a variety of local songs and dances.

— the more adventurous visitor who wishes to wander further afield from the city of Petra itself now has the option of renting four-wheel-drive Suzuki jeeps for a half or full-day outing, or taking one of the Petra horses for a leisurely gallop around the surrounding hills and tracks.

The latest marketing twist, expected to start within a few months, will bring groups of horse-riding tourists to spend a week in the Petra region, using the available horses to "follow the ancient spice route" north of Petra. A French travel agency specialising in horse-back riding tours will launch the campaign this autumn. The groups will camp out en route during their riding trips north of Petra.

New approach

Another marketing approach geared to domestic tourism has been a joint offer with the JETT bus company to promote two-day, overnight trips from Amman. For JD 26, a visitor gets roundtrip bus transport from Amman to Petra, a night at the hotel, lunch and dinner the first day, breakfast and lunch the second day, and the horse and entrance to Petra.

The presence of the new restaurant and snack bar within the

Badran exhibits delightful array of decorative applied arts, crafts

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The exhibition of the craft work by Jamal Badran at the Royal Cultural Centre this week is one of undiluted pleasure for everything from the tiny arabesque designs on the handpainted glassware to the gilded gazelles etched into leather, has been executed with meticulous and painstaking care as well as with creativity and flair. The care that Badran takes over his artifacts does not stop with the articles themselves but also extends to their display and layout.

Badran, a 75-year-old mastercraftsman proficient in many skills, now mainly concentrates his talents on producing fine handpainted glass and lamps. The glassware itself comes from the Hebron glass factory and on the pieces he selects, usually long elegant shapes in shades of rich blue, he paints his intricate Islamic designs.

Although based on original patterns, Badran never copies but creates his own individual designs that incorporate calligraphy, geometrical patterns in bright colours, curving intertwining flowers and even sometimes birds and leaping gazelle.

The same kind of designs are used on his parchment lampshades which glow with a warm yellow light over their olive wood bases. These Badran carves and decorates himself. Often the whole stand is covered in delicate floral designs but sometimes areas of the wood are left, with the gleam of the polish enhancing its natural beauty.

The exhibition, however, consists of much more than these pieces. By means of drawings and designs, by displays of tools and plaster casts, it documents all the different facets of Badran's long and productive professional life.

Islamic decoration

The crafts Badran has been principally involved with have been those which incorporate Islamic decoration. One of his major projects was the redecoration of the famous and very beautiful Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. In 1969, the minbar of the mosque was burnt and Badran was commissioned to redecorate it; a project that took him five years to complete at the end of which time he had drawn 31 plates perfect in every detail, like the one that opens the exhibition, in the original size. Badran also prepared

the drawings for the missing parts, constituting some 23 metres of the ceiling, of the mosaic inscription in the mosque. Some of his Kufic designs, based on the kind of calligraphy that had been used before, are also on display.

More recently Badran designed and supervised the decoration of the interior of the Jordan University Mosque here in Amman. The drawings he executed for the minbar are exquisite freehand but accurate sketches, covered all over in spidery writing which make the drawings look like old and very valuable manuscripts, which indeed one day they will become.

Badran also designed the calligraphic mosaic work that encircles in blue, gold and white the rising turquoise interior of the dome and the heavy brass door handles that are in perfect keeping with the rest of the interior.

Badran's new and latest projects include the study of the decorations for the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman, and the writing of two books; one on traditional embroidery designs, pages of which are on display showing the old patterns and the new ones Badran has developed from them. Another book documents all the different techniques involved in the making of Badran's many and various artifacts. The book will be illustrated with step-by-step photographs.

A graduate of the College of Applied Arts in Cairo in 1927, Badran then went on to the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London and many examples his work from there are on display, including some of his designs for the inside pages of hand bound books. Called marbling, no doubt because of the effect they create

these designs are intricate in the utmost as they flow both in shape and tone across the page.

Books, textiles

Also on display are some of the books Badran has bound himself, his favourite being a book on book binding which he covered in beautifully etched and gilded leather and whose page edges he gilded and stamped with a tiny floral design.

Also at this time Badran used to make textile designs which the college encouraged him to sell to manufacturers. The designs he made then are surprisingly modern, simple but striking freehand patterns of white on black that have a tremendous appeal.

For many years Badran passed on his skills, first as the senior arts and crafts teacher at the government Arab College in Jerusalem (1930-1948), then as the supervisor of arts and crafts at the men and women training colleges in Damascus (1948-1952) and more recently as the UNESCO arts and crafts expert in Tripoli, Libya (1952-1962).

He taught his students, among other things, how to make their own etching and modelling tool kits from easily available materials (nails, old comb handles) and how to get many different thicknesses and textures of paint from one brush.

In the future Badran wants to show people how to blow glass and enamel it. In the meantime however as well as all his other work and projects Badran will continue to run his arts and crafts studio in Ramallah.

The exhibition continues until Sept. 6.



Guests at the Petra Forum Hotel take a dip in the hotel's outdoor swimming pool (photo Rami Khouri).



One of the handpainted exhibits of Jamal Badran

Jordan Times

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Who pays the price?

THE CONTINUED American silence on Israel's political circus, that is conveniently called the coalition-building process, hampers not only the Middle East peace-making efforts but also jeopardises U.S. long-term strategic interests in the area. Unless Washington is prepared and willing to throw its weight behind those who genuinely seek an Arab-Israeli settlement, now rather than later, the cause of peace becomes but a hopeless case.

Everybody has heard of the Reagan administration's "disappointment" over the Labour party's failure to regain power in Israel. All are aware that this is too sensitive a time for any U.S. administration to meddle into Israeli politics. What with the fear of internal backlashes during an election campaign at home. But do the Americans not realise the need to exert more effort, even change tactics, in order to influence the course of events in the Middle East, in a direction that truly serves the cause of peace and stability?

The Washington Post, in an editorial last week, questioned the wisdom of the State Department's policy in contemplating a new U.S.-Israel tradeoff where extra American aid would be given the Israelis in return for economic reform. It asked whether this would end up meaning anything more than open-ended American subsidies, and whether the U.S. really needs "to insert itself that much deeper into the life of a country with which it already has exceedingly complex ties."

"If U.S. aid is to be tied to Israeli policy," why not tie it to Israeli foreign policy, which is more appropriately and urgently an American concern?" the newspaper asked.

Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's national security adviser, was boasting the other day of how much money his administration gave Israel, \$9.5 billion to be precise. He spoke about the strategic pact, the free trade agreement, the high technology memorandum, the state-of-the-art manufacturing technology made available for the development of Israeli designed Lavi aircraft — assistance programmes that have greatly benefited the Zionist state. Did the man take a moment to ask himself why his administration's policy in the Middle East has run aground? Did Washington ever think that its unlimited support for Israel is the real source of the present dangerous stalemate in this region? Or, counter to logic and common sense, does the U.S. administration really believe it is doing the right thing?

Now, the room for talk, rough as it may be, is still there. Soon, however, U.S.-Arab friendship might not be able to afford such a luxury. We certainly hope the only road left open for peace will not actually lead to disaster.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Spanish ties with Israel

SPAIN IS about to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. This was declared by its prime minister who said that Madrid will soon announce the decision officially. We believe that Spain is making a grave mistake by doing so because it stands to lose rather than gain by its move since this will cost Madrid its credibility with the Arab World.

The Arabs regard the Spanish decision as a stab in the back because they had always thought that Spain is a historic friend of the Arabs and they had always treated that country as such. Establishing diplomatic relations between Israel and Spain would mean that the Arabs should change their minds about the Spaniards. They should stop giving Spain special trading status or preference over other nations and they should stop investing their funds and capital in that country.

We are prompted to believe that the Spanish prime minister was not given a proper appraisal of the situation in the Arab region nor of the Spanish interests in the Arab World, and this has moved him to take this wrong decision. But, nevertheless, the decision is bound to encourage the Israelis to harden their position vis-a-vis the occupied Arab lands, and pursue their arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people, denying them the right to self-determination. We regret that Spain is taking this step and we regret also that the Arab World will have to take proper action in response to that in the future.

Al Dustour: Partners in aggression

LEADERS OF the Israeli political parties, particularly the Likud and Labour, are pursuing efforts for forming a coalition government, and no one can guarantee the results of these efforts. Perhaps the two major parties will succeed in forming a government on their own or they might seek help from the smaller parties to do so. Whatever the result of these consultations and behind-the-scenes bargaining, any observer can clearly see that the crisis in government reflects the deep divisions among the members of the parties which in turn reflect divisions within the Israeli society.

Throughout its short history, Israel has resorted to a broadly-based coalition government with the purpose of overcoming economic difficulties and for winning public support for any military adventure against the Arabs. The Likud and the Labour parties both have ambitious plans to carry out and both are characterised by aggressiveness, but most important of all, both are agreed on continuing the present course of hostility towards the Arab Nation and continued occupation of Arab land. Therefore the Arabs should not rule out the possibility of Israel launching a new aggression on Arab countries to direct the Israeli public opinion to "common cause" and external issues and divert people's attention from the deteriorating economic situation in Israel.

Sawt Al Shaab: Lack of Arab consistency

SPAIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT that it intends to establish diplomatic relations with Israel represents a shameful retreat for the Arabs on the European political scene. Of course, Spain has been exposed to pressure from other European countries and world Zionism. It was made clear to Madrid that its entry into the European Common Market depends largely on its recognition of Israel. But this does not mean that the Arabs should remain apathetic to these developments. In fact this has come about due to lack of Arab political action in Europe, lack of unity among Arab countries on a common strategy and due to inter-Arab conflicts.

The Arabs proved to Europe and the whole world that they are divided, unworthy of confidence and have a very weak will in confronting issues, and this has cost them a lot. The Arabs are now reaping the fruit of their actions on the domestic front and their inability to interact with international developments in a proper manner.

I tip my hat to all Jerash Festival folk

By Rami G. Khouri

I WOULD like to tip my hat to all the people who have organised and participated in the Third Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts. I am a great fan of the Jerash Festival, and have attended all three festivals, starting with the three-day mini-festival experiment in 1981. Now that we have had three festivals, of different sizes and varieties, we should have enough experience to be able to assess the festival with some confidence. I say "assess", because I think we need more solid assessment, and less of the sweeping criticism and negativism that dominate Jordanian society.

I am perplexed, for example, by the peculiar local habit of assuming that most of the big projects that have been built in the country are technically faulty and therefore useless. At one time or another, I have heard stories to the effect that all the following projects were badly designed and could not be used: Queen Alia International Airport, the King Talal Dam, the Housing Bank's Commercial Complex in Shmeisani, the potash project, and the Jordan Valley-to-North Jordan water conveyance system, to mention only the biggest.

Of course, all of these schemes are functioning more or less as designed, with deviations from initial projections usually being due to changes in the economic climate upon completion, and not to design faults. For some reason, it is a favourite Jordanian pastime to criticise large national endeavours, and therefore it came as no surprise to hear so many criticisms of the Jerash Festival.

I have been impressed by two particular aspects of the Jerash Festival. The first is the obvious ability of the organisers to learn from each successive festival, and improve the next one. There was a clear difference between this year's organisation and last year's, especially in the physical layout of the booths and activities within the ancient ruins, the flow of people, the timing and spacing out of the major performances, and the variety of attractions.

There were no crushing crowds this year, blocked streets in the middle of the city or overtaxed food and beverage stands. The orderly organisation of the car parking problem strikes me as one of the festival's greatest successes, and one hopes that others in the country may learn that a disciplined and rational approach to such matters will always succeed if one only tries one's best. In short, the organisers have shown us that they cannot only put on a good show, but also that they can improve it year after year. To be sure, some problems can still be ironed out, and improvements can always be made. To judge from the first three festivals, they will be.

The second point that struck me is that the best testament to the success of the festival has been the number of visitors, now averaging about a hundred thousand every year. The formula that was devised for the Jerash Festival from the start seems to me to have proved itself as valid and appropriate. This is not an annual showcase of only the very finest Arab or international performing arts; nor is it a non-participatory spectacle in which the audience sits for two hours listening to a famous group perform and then goes home. It is not, either, the exclusive stage of a handful of local troupes.

It is, in fact, a people's street festival, with widely varying qualities of performing and visual arts and crafts catering to the many different tastes of the population. It is more a catalyst for the local arts than their showcase, a vehicle by which people can have fun for two weeks in August while nurturing the fragile and rather young Jordanian repository of

dance, music, theatre, painting, sculpture, poetry and song. If some performances were better than others, then the festival shall have succeeded in bringing together a cross section of Jordan's art. The better troupes shall have performed for audiences numbering in the tens of thousands. The weaker ones shall have been put to the rigorous test of public judgement. Young children wandering through the crowds shall have been stimulated to consider going into the arts in a serious manner.

For perhaps the first time in Jordan's modern history, the country has realised that if its performing arts are varied in quality, the demand among the people for this sort of cultural activity is strong. If the Jerash Festival gradually promotes the development of folkloric and artistic groups throughout the country, it shall have succeeded in its underlying aim — to act as a catalyst for culture and the arts throughout the land.

This raises a delicate question: who decides which art forms are most appropriate to be included in the festival, and, ultimately, to be promoted throughout the land? It was correct to keep the organisation of the festival outside the formal context of the ministries and the state, and to

place it, rather, under the aegis of a higher national committee. There is a danger that the promotion of culture and the arts in general could fall into the hands of narrow-minded people who would tend to dictate to others their preferences in the huge arena of culture and the arts.

The initial three years of the Jerash Festival indicate that there is little danger of this happening. It would be appropriate, one thinks, to tighten the mechanisms by which the festival remains under the aegis of an independent committee, with significant representation from the private sector as well as the public sector. It is also the right time to take a hard look at the financial side of the festival, and to put it on a firm and independent footing that will ensure that its quality keeps rising, as it has done since its inception.

I am struck by the symbolism of what has happened at Jerash. In the glory days of the ancient Greco-Roman city, in the first and second centuries AD, Jerash was one of many other provincial Roman cities throughout the eastern Mediterranean area. These cities were vital for the transmission of Greco-Roman culture and ideas into the Middle East, from where they were ultimately retransmitted to Europe some 1000 years later, eventually helping to stimulate the European Renaissance and the rise of Western civilisation.

As such, Jerash and other provincial Roman cities in the Arab World were vehicles for the preservation, diffusion and transmission of global arts and culture in their broadest sense. The Jerash Festival has reinvigorated this process, though somewhat in reverse. The old stones of Jerash have been revived as a vehicle for the transmission of Arab and international culture and arts to an audience of tens of thousands of Jordanians. To see American, Soviet, German, French, Colombian and Indian troupes performing at Jerash is to see the provincial cities of the ancient Middle East once again play their role as the survivors and passers-on of artistic impulses and cultural ideals that are, in the end, universal and timeless.

The organisers of the Jerash Festival have done something fine. They have not only lived up to the extraordinary challenge of one's historical legacy, but have also demonstrated the enormous good that can be done when generous, humble and public-spirited people put their minds together and insist on doing a quality job. To them all, a tip of the hat.

about the three Israelis who nearly brought off the kidnap of the decade? No, not a single word — The Voice of the Arab World.

What if three Arabs had been found in the Dikko crate?

WHAT IF three Arabs, instead of three Israelis, had been found in the crate holding the Nigerian, Dr. Umaru Dikko, when it was seized at Stansted Airport in Britain in the first week of July?

It is the measure of the Western malady that any Arabs concerned, and by inference all Arabs, would be found in such circumstances, have been roasted alive in the public prints.

There would probably have been immediate media outrage. Mr. Rupert Murdoch's anti-Arab "New York Post" would for once, have found union with Mrs. Graham's "Washington Post" in most likely screaming that "Arab terrorists kidnap ex-Nigerian Minister". The headlines, whether in the London "Times" or the "Los Angeles Times" would have been equally predictable.

In Britain that masterly historian and classy one-time editor of the "New Statesman", Paul Johnson, would almost certainly have been frothing at the evidence of another "Arab outrage."

Another expert on "terrorism" in the public prints, ex-"Times" military correspondent, Lord Chalfont, was at the very time of the discovery of the crate addressing a conference on terrorism at the Jonathan Institute in Washington. He would almost certainly have made a rumour about this latest incident were Arabs in any way involved. He would have doubtless felt it to be proof positive of Arab "terrorism" being on the hoof again.

Instead, as some people were surprised to find, no less than three Israelis were found in the crate. Many papers, extraordinarily enough mentioned only two. The leading figure was Dr. Lev-Arie Shapiro, 43, a top ana-

esthetist at the Sharon Hospital near Tel Aviv. Dr. Shapiro is in the Israeli Army Reserves. He saw services in Lebanon. He came to Britain in the first week of July telling friends, according to the "Jewish Chronicle", that he had received a private contract to "accompany a patient". Now we know who. The second Israeli in the crate was Dr. Felix Abiboul, a Tunisian born Israeli national from Netanya. He is a member of a well-known Arab-Israeli family that owns a number of shops, cafes and nightclubs in the town. The third Israeli was Mr. Alexander Barak, a 27-year-old businessman who curiously holds both an Israeli and Nigerian passport. He is said to travel extensively. At least two of these men were alleged to have been former members of Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

The fourth man in the crate was the Nigerian diplomat. All three have appeared in a London court in Lambeth to be charged and unlike unfortunate Arab "terrorists" or "kidnappers" or "hijackers" (use your own terminology according to prejudice) who usually have no legal aid and are often forgotten, the three Israeli gentlemen have no less than Sir David Napley, the most expensive lawyer in Lincoln's Inn, briefed on their behalf. Two prominent Israeli lawyers have also flown immediately from Tel Aviv to London.

One of the three Israeli gentlemen in the crate was equipped with syringe and drugs. In this nightmare scenario straight out of John Le Carré at his best, a rubber tube had been inserted in the victim's throat so that drugs and fluids could be administered directly into Dr. Dikko's bloodstream. The London "Times" on July

9th, readers saw, carried a headline "Detectives question Dikko in Hospital." The Israelis who accompanied their Nigerian victim were, it could be noted in passing, given a somewhat indifferent five lines in the story.

Why no greater interest, might one be permitted to ask? Two days before on July 1, Lord Rothermere's London "Daily Mail", Mr. Paul Johnson, who we have already mentioned, published an article under a dramatic heading, "Hit Men of the World to Prowl in London".

Who are these hit-men who were for some mysterious purpose collaborating with person or persons unknown in Nigeria to bring to an abrupt end Dr. Dikko's life in London? With a sense of mounting excitement that Mr. Johnson would give us the truth about the hit men found in the packing case, fact-hungry readers read his article — all 800 words of exciting journalism. Mr. Johnson, however, is brilliant at distracting the reader by raising side issues. He is an able performer in the theatre of sensation.

He mentions, by way of taking his reader on a detour, the kidnapping tricks of the late Colonel Nasser, said at one time to have constructed a packing case containing a sort of dentist's chair in which his intended victim was strapped for airmail expedition to Cairo.

The "tricks" of the Libyans (who else?) are also catalogued. The Iranians (why not?) get a mention. Those long-suffering media targets the Saudi Arabian "princes and plutocrats" are described as living in "heavily guarded bolt-holes around London." Mr. Johnson also paints a kind of

phantasy of thousands of "petrified millionaires" about to leave the gulf if the established order there is ever overthrown!

All good sensational stuff, to be sure, but what about the Israeli "hit men" in the present case? Mr. Johnson is silent.

What do you call Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Felix Abiboul or Mr. Barak but "hit men" or "terrorists"? May one politely ask? They may have carried a bottle of Pentathol instead of a Mauser pistol, but the effect is much the same if you met them on a stroll in Notting Hill Gate and you were to them a "wanted" man.

It is not remarkable that historian Paul Johnson manages to leave out a bit of vital recent history and turn his reader's attention to the Arabs, even in a case which has not the remotest connection with any Arabs? Why does this historian try to anaesthetise his reader? Since the public's insatiable interest in people with a secret service background why not explore the Israeli connection?

In fact, the one thing apparent, not only in the writings of Mr. Johnson, but in those of many others, is a complacent disregard, not only in Britain but in America, about the need to get behind the scenes on what is by any reckoning a sensational story of forceful kidnap.

The "Daily Mail" stable-mate, the "Mail on Sunday", is edited by Stewart Steven, who once wrote a meticulously detailed and exciting book about the history of Mossad. You would suppose therefore that Mr. Steven would be on to the story. But what do we find?

On July 15th, in fact the "Mail on Sunday" carried a full page ar-

icle entitled "The Crate People and Other Cover-Ups" by Alan Williams. Was light to be shed in this article on the great cover-up

AS THOSE KIDNAPPED NIGERIANS ARE FOUND IN A CRATE

Freedom... but it brings the hit men of the world to prowl in London

by PAUL JOHNSON

Three suspected Middle Eastern mercenaries were being questioned by anti-terrorist squad detectives last night about the kidnapping of a Nigerian millionaire and former government minister, Umaru Dikko.

The 222 passengers and 22 crew members of a British airliner, the Boeing 747, were held in Lagos early yesterday.

The "Times" lead of July 7, announcing the kidnap. The story mentions "three suspected Middle East mercenaries" with no mention of Israelis.

By Peter Davenport

He was told that the Government expected the Nigerians to leave diplomatic immunity if necessary, during the police investigation. None of those being questioned has claimed immunity.

Last night detectives were still trying to discover if the kidnapping attempt was ordered by the military regime in Lagos or undertaken as a freelance operation by mercenaries out to make a financial killing by returning Umaru Dikko for ransom on alleged corruption charges.

The police, who were alerted to the kidnapping, sealed off the area and began a search for the van. By last night it had still not been found.

A massive alert was flashed to all sea and airports and three-and-a-half hours later a white van, escorted by two diplomatic limousines, arrived



Alan Williams

'Mercenaries' held after kidnap of doped Nigerian

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Alan Williams

The "Mail on Sunday" article of July 15, not a single line about the bigger "cover-up" regarding the Israelis.

No sex, please, we are Swedish

SWEDEN'S sexual revolution, which thrilled the world for 20 years, is now — tentatively — taking a few backward steps. It started in the sixties and reached its highest point in the early seventies with the abolition of all censorship and the end of many taboos against sex before marriage. Now, both in the home and in the attitude of the state, there are significant changes.

Censorship has not been reintroduced on sex as such, but a ban has been imposed on live sex shows and on child pornography. A committee of inquiry has recommended the censorship of sexual violence on film and video, a recommendation that the government of Olof Palme seems likely to accept.

The ostensible reason for these bans has been to protect women from prostitution, and children from exploitation — not to protect the spectators. But the effect has been that Stockholm's sex clubs have virtually disappeared. There are now only two left out of the more than 20 that existed in the mid-seventies, and the Swedes, by and large, are not sorry to see them go. They were never much more than a tourist trap to cash in on Sweden's wholly undeserved reputation abroad as the country of sin and sex.

An even more significant change has taken place in the last few years in the private domain — a change in atmosphere in favour of family and fidelity. It is the beginning of a moral backlash against the permissive and promiscuous philosophy of the sixties.

"I cannot prove it yet, but I think there has been a clear change in the atmosphere in the last five years," says Carl-Gustav Boethius. He is the former chairman and now vice-chairman of the Sex Education Board, which runs a clinic and advice centre in south Stockholm. "We notice it here very strongly and I think it will soon start showing up in the statistics."

"The real explosion of sex liberalisation was in the sixties and the first half of the seventies. During that time there were some teenagers, a relatively small group, who had sexual relations with many different partners and a very extensive sex life."

"In the last five years teenagers have found out for themselves, without much preaching from the older generation, that this type of sex does not have much to offer — what you really want is someone you can be very close to."

"The change we observe today is that teenagers, both boys and girls, now say that you should wait

before you enter into sexual relations until you are sure that you have found the right person for you — not the right person for your whole life, but the right person for you today — and they also say that if you have sexual relations, you must be faithful to your partner."

There was a time, Mr. Boethius says, when some of the boys and girls who had their first sexual experiences at an early age were really quite disturbed. But now, he says, when investigating young people starting at 12 or 13, one finds that they can be well balanced, enjoying good relations with their parents and achieving good results at school.

Follow-up surveys have also shown that even if they found their first sexual encounters at 12 or 13 to be "uninteresting," as half of them did, they suffered no ill effects and matured normally. "It is not as the extreme moralists always say that if a girl starts too early she has disturbed her whole life. That is not true," said Mr. Boethius.

What is happening, he says, is that more responsible young people are experiencing sex before marriage and they are beginning to do it in a more responsible way. At the same time living together before marriage is no longer an act of social defiance but of conformity.

If living together had become acceptable in the seventies, it has now become positively respectable. The Swedish equivalent of the Kinsey report found as early as 1969 that the percentage of young marrieds saying they had had no sexual experience before marriage was as low as two per cent. "I'm sure it is much less than two per cent today and those who are left are mainly Pentecostals and Baptists," said Mr. Boethius.

There are now practically no weddings where the couple had not lived in the same flat or house before marriage. That is not just a matter of speculation but can be seen from income tax and census returns, which are publicly available. The fact has been even more obvious in church weddings, since the banns have to be read from the pulpit on the Sunday before the wedding. Unlike this country, where the priest simply refers to the couple as a bachelor or a spinster "of this parish," the Swedish priest has to give the full address of the groom and then the full address of the bride, which is very often the same. This has been very difficult for the more conservative priests to accept.

It has been even more difficult for such priests to accept the fact



No longer a moral duty to abandon a poor marriage. Scene from Ingmar Bergman's film, *From the Life of the Marionettes*

that most theological students and even some younger priests in the Lutheran state church now live openly with their partners before marriage. It is not even considered unusual for a priest to be divorced and to live with his future wife before being remarried in church.

Most theological students, according to Carl Gustaf Boethius, have their first sexual experience outside marriage, and they do so with the blessing of many senior figures in the church. The former Bishop of Stockholm, Ingmar Ström, once said in an interview: "I remember my own life during the last years at school and at university when I was studying theology, and it was absolutely forbidden for me to have sexual relations with the girls I fell in love with. I remember that as a dark and terrible room." He did not want young Swedish people to live in that dark and terrible room any more.

This change in morality has been paralleled by a change in language. For Swedes to talk today about "pre-marital sex" would sound rather quaint, and "living in sin" more so. Instead they talk about living together and use the word for a cohabitee, "sambo," to refer to their partners. "You must meet my sambo," they will say, in just the same way that they might say "meet my husband" or "meet my wife."

This lack of self-consciousness stretches to the wedding pictures in Swedish newspapers where the happy couples are often pictured with their own children, who are usually aged between five and ten when the parents decide to relinquish their "sambo" status and get married. Out of 20 or 30 wedding announcements in the newspaper every day two or three usu-

ally include children.

Sociologists argue that this is not a new custom but a very old one. Church records go back further in Sweden than in almost any other country and they appear to show that it has been the custom for hundreds of years in many parts of Sweden for engaged couples to live together. The first child is often born less than nine months after marriage.

According to one sociologist, "Young people in Sweden have always lived together before marriage. The Church tried to force them to get married immediately, but it never succeeded. The sex liberals tried to convince them they must be even more sexually free, and some even preached that promiscuity was a good thing. But they did not succeed either, and young people are now reverting to their old customs."

The difference is that in the old days it was impossible for a young man to leave his girl even though they were not married. He would be ostracised in his village or forced to emigrate to America. But since people started to move off the land and into the cities about 100 years ago, the system of social control began to break down and young people began to experience sexual freedom.

Even today the difference can still be seen between the cities, where 50 per cent of marriages end in divorce, and the countryside, where the figure is 30 per cent. Many people believe that the divorce rate will decline as the children of divorced parents grow up and become parents themselves. "In the last four or five years we have had young people coming to us and saying something that they never said before," says Mr. Boethius. "They say they have difficulties

in their marriage, but they don't want to divorce because they remember how they suffered as children when their parents divorced, and they don't like the idea of making their children suffer in the same way."

"We also get teenagers telling us they are very upset by the infidelity of their parents, and are worried that the family will split up. They also say that they will never live like that when they grow up, though that is something which naturally they often cannot realise in their later life."

Rita Liljestrom, one of Sweden's foremost sociologists, has also issued a public warning over the high divorce rate which, she says, simply cannot go on. Children are often deeply hurt and it is a danger to the whole of society.

"Many divorces are necessary. It was a terrible thing in the old days when it was impossible for a woman to leave a bad marriage," says Mr. Boethius. "But the hardest criticism today is directed at the type of divorce which is caused by the principle that love and passion is more important than marriage and family, and that if you experience new love and a new passion it is nearly your moral duty to leave your poor marriage."

"These sudden passion divorces from marriages that have not been so bad are the ones that will decrease. People find that if they really work hard to overcome problems they find a better relationship than they had before and they can mature together."

"These are old ideas that we are hearing about again, only this time it is not because marriage is the will of God but simply the experience that rapid divorces are not a good thing. It is a practical reason that has changed their minds — *The Guardian*.

Militia-run illegal ports drain Lebanese economy

By Tod Robberson
Reuter

BEIRUT — Port activity is so brisk in Beirut these days that cargo ships often have to wait several days anchored offshore before they can dock and unload.

But the activity centres on a half-dozen illegal ports dotting the Lebanese coastline, while Beirut's official port lies almost idle.

Its empty docks stand in marked contrast to an illegal port nearby, where on any given day more than 1,500 cargo containers are stacked as trucks queue by the dozens to collect crates of dishwashers, stereo sets, televisions, generators or clothing — all being imported without a cent of customs duty paid to the government.

Shipping sources say business is booming at the illegal ports, which are run by militias or militia-backed businessmen, and the costs incurred by berthing delays are more than covered by the savings on duties.

The value of their business cannot be determined exactly because their operators refuse to talk to reporters or declare their income to the government.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami recently told a local business magazine the treasury was being sapped by illegal ports and their continued operation could mean bankruptcy for Lebanon.

The government, however, is powerless to close them without starting a new round of fighting in the nine-year-old civil war, a source in the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia said.

Shipping sources say the militia runs Lebanon's busiest and most

profitable port, next to the official Beirut port which reopened in early July after a record five-month closure caused by the war.

The sources said the illegal port handles about 50 per cent of all Beirut shipping commerce and unloads eight to 12 ships a day compared with one or two daily at the official port.

Northward across Beirut harbour is the second-busiest port at Dbaiyeh, which is run illegally by a former bodyguard of Finance Minister Camille Chamoun.

An official at Beirut port said customs receipts had averaged 15 million Lebanese pounds (\$2.3 million) a month before the port closed during fighting last February.

Now, however, receipts were down to only three million pounds (\$460,000) per month, he said.

"We barely meet our operating expenses," an official said.

From 1975, when the war began, to mid-1983, illegal ports drained more than five billion pounds (\$770 million) from government coffers, customs officials said.

A source involved with both illegal and legal ports said only ships whose cargo carries less than one per cent customs duty are using the official port. These include ships carrying livestock, chemicals or grain.

The Beirut agent of a major world shipper, who asked not to be named, said the savings offered by illegal ports have tempted even the most reputation-conscious shipping lines to enter the Beirut black market.

He said government customs fees begin at 10,000 pounds (\$

1,540) per container, whereas illegal ports usually charge a flat fee rarely exceeding 5,000 pounds (\$750).

"As an importer, you just can't compete if you try to be legal and pay customs on your goods while your competition is using an illegal port and paying nothing," he added.

For larger shippers, the main deterrent to using illegal ports is that insurers usually refuse coverage or charge up to 50 per cent more than the already high war-risk premium paid for calling at Beirut's legal port, he said.

That leaves most of the illegal port business to shadowy local shippers who take cargo on consignment from larger vessels in Cyprus and shuttle it to Lebanon in aging, unmarked ships that carry no insurance, a port source said.

The government has tried several times to close the illegal facilities in Beirut, but "Lebanese Forces" commander Fadi Frem has insisted his militia's dock will remain open until all illegal ports in Syrian-controlled North Lebanon are closed.

Those include the main Tripoli port, operated illegally by the fundamentalist Sunni Muslim Tawheed militia since January, and a smaller dock south of Tripoli run by the Marada militia of former President Suleiman Franjeh.

Shipping sources said the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) of Druze Muslim leader Walid Junblatt is planning to build an illegal port at Khaldé, 10 kilometres south of Beirut in an area jointly controlled by the PSP and Shi'ite Muslim Amal militias.

A new book charts faulty judgments of history

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuter

NEW YORK — Beethoven's fifth symphony was dismissed as an "orgy of vulgar noise". Communism as a passing fad and Hitler as a man who would never go to war.

A new book called "The Experts Speak" recounts with vicious glee these and other judgments which have jarred spectacularly with reality through the centuries.

— Michelangelo to a Pope complaining at how long he was taking on the Sistine chapel: "I told your holiness I was no painter."

— Britain's Winston Churchill when he was replaced as First Lord of the Admiralty in 1915: "I am finished."

— Wilbur Wright to his brother Orville in 1901: "Man will not fly for 50 years." The brothers made the first plane flight only two years later.

"The Experts Speak", a 391-page book edited by Christopher Cerf and Victor Navasky, is crammed with such wayward views, all presented in the experts' own words. The editors rarely comment on their collected quotes, nor do they have to.

There were experts who said that cigarettes did not cause cancer, that man would never fly, that all Japanese were short and that

Adolf Hitler was one of history's nicer guys. ("My uncle is a peaceful man," said Hitler's nephew Willie. "He thinks war is not worth the candle.")

Mr. Cerf told Reuters that four years of research went into the book and that he and Mr. Navasky created their own "institute of expertology," composed mostly of friends, to help look up yesterday's bad advice and predictions.

The institute uncovered Lord Kelvin, a leading British mathematician and physicist, who had an almost supernatural ability to make wrong predictions.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible," he said in 1895.

"Radio has no future," he said two years later.

And in 1900: "X-rays are a hoax."

Kelvin was rivalled in music by German violin virtuoso Louis Spohr, who dismissed Beethoven's fifth as "an orgy of vulgar noise" and said his ninth was "so ugly, in such bad taste... so cheap" that he could not understand how it was written.

"Our book is unfair," Mr. Cerf admits. "All you have to do is be wrong to get in. We don't care when someone is right."

Advance copies were sent to Congress in the hope of critical praise. "Your book will never

sell," replied one congressman. If the book becomes a best-seller, subsequent editions will carry the congressman's quote. Mr. Cerf says, "Of course, if it is right, we won't be able to say a word."

The saddest error may have been that of British writer H.G. Wells when he said of World War I: "This, the greatest of all wars, is not just another war — it is the last war."

Hitler was widely misjudged. Former British Prime Minister David Lloyd George flatly said the Germans under Hitler would never go to war and Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi praised Hitler for the careful way his troops avoided killing people in World War II.

Journalists have also made mistakes. Walter Duranty, the New York Times correspondent in Moscow, predicted in 1920 that the Bolshevik government would not last six months.

And a Reuters correspondent almost missed the Russian Revolution. "I tell you that nothing is going to happen in this forsaken country," Guy Beringer in Petrograd told a colleague in 1917. "It's a good time to go to the Crimea for a holiday."

Moments later, an attendant rushed in to announce that a revolution had begun. Mr. Beringer cancelled his holiday.

Sexual abuse reported in child care centres

By Susan Essosyan
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Day care centres for children, which have grown in popularity since more American mothers began working outside the home, may face stricter regulation here after dozens of youngsters reported they had been sexually molested by employees.

The issue surfaced in early August, when a mother reported her child had been raped at a centre in the New York Borough of the Bronx. Within a week, investigators had interviewed 100 children at the centre and found 30 youngsters, aged four to eight, who complained of abuse, according to Edward McCarthy, spokesman for the district attorney, the local prosecutor who headed the investigation.

Four employees were arrested and some outraged citizens took matters into their own hands. Shortly after the first disclosure, a jeering crowd gathered outside one of the child care centres and turned violent, breaking four windows.

The shocking allegations have sparked efforts by government officials — both local and national — to try to prevent such abuse.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is drafting model hiring practices for day care centre employees that should lead to more rigorous investigation before people are hired, according

to spokesman Harold Eidlin. The department also is preparing a folder to alert parents to the problem.

In New York, the Agency for Child Development, which oversees 385 city-funded day care centres with 42,000 children, has decided to check the programme every three weeks, according to Doby Flowers, deputy administrator.

She said the agency also is revamping training programmes of child care employees and has mailed literature to parents instructing them on how to detect abuse. And the city has begun insisting on criminal background checks before new employees are hired in day care programmes.

The state maintains a registry of all child abuse cases reported.

Mayor Edward Koch has sent letters to every employee at each centre in the city urging them to report any suspicions they have about child sexual abuse.

But authorities say that child care centres as a whole are not likely spots for abuse.

"The overwhelming majority of the centres are perfectly safe places," said Eidlin of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"These are relatively isolated cases. There's no denying there is sexual abuse, it certainly is a fact of life, but at centres it is rare." Nonetheless, the New York dis-

closure has emboldened other victims, and the number of cases reported in the state has skyrocketed.

In July, three suspected cases of sexual abuse of children at day care centres were reported to the state's central registry. In August, that number jumped to 41, according to Terrance McGrath, spokesman for the Department of Social Services.

In all of the previous year, from July 1983 to June 1984, there were only 22 cases reported statewide, of which five were substantiated, he said.

"Whether this trend is going to continue, there is no way to predict," Mr. McGrath said in a telephone interview.

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McEnroe, Connors enter U.S. Open fourth round

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Top-seeded John McEnroe and defending champion Jimmy Connors posted straight-set victories, while Great Britain's John Lloyd upset Johan Kriek Sunday to move into the fourth round of the \$2.55 million U.S. Open tennis championships.

Also posting third-round victories Sunday on the hard courts at the National Tennis Centre were ninth-seeded Henrik Sundstrom of Sweden, no. 13 Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia, no. 14 Anders Jarryd of Sweden and qualifier Robert Green of the United States.

The final fourth-round spot in the men's singles was decided Sunday night when Guillermo

Vilas of Argentina played Gene Mayer in a battle of unseeded players.

Connors swept past Henri Leconte of France 6-1, 6-1, 7-6 in his bid to win his third consecutive U.S. Open title and sixth overall. The left-hander was never in trouble against his French opponent, who alternated brilliant winners with sloppy play.

A subdued McEnroe, in perfect control of his game and his on-court behaviour, breezed past Kevin Moir of South Africa 6-3, 6-0, 6-3, while Lloyd, after dropping the opening set, won the second-set tiebreaker 12-10 en route to posting a 2-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Kriek, the 1981 and 1982 Australian Open champion.

But the favourite result to the sell-out crowd of more than 20,000 was Lloyd's victory over Kriek.

"The crowds in America have always treated me well," said Lloyd. "But since we (he and Chris Evert) got married their interest has probably quadrupled. It's actually like Wimbledon here



U.S. Open defending champion Jimmy Connors makes a return against Henri Leconte Sunday (AP Wirephoto)

for me — the whole crowd was willing me to win."

Injuries contributed to Lloyd's struggle, as did his adjustment to life with Chris, who has won more than \$5 million in tennis.

Seeded women to advance, included Americans Pam Shriver (4) and Lisa Bonder (9), Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany (8) and Australian Wendy Turnbull (13).

Two unseeded women also reached the fourth round. Susan

Mascarin of the United States defeated veteran Virginia Ruzici of Romania and Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia ousted talented 14-year-old Gabriella Sabatini of Argentina, the youngest player ever to win a match at the open.

The fourth-round pairings will send top-seeded Martina Navratilova against Potter, Bonder against Sukova, Shriver against Mascarin and Turnbull against Kohde-Kilsch in the top half of the draw.

Belgian takes world cycling title

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Belgium's Claude Criquielion Monday savoured the biggest achievement of his sporting career after he powered through sweltering heat over a roller-coaster course to win the World Professional Road Race Cycling title in Barcelona.

The 27-year-old Belgian rider sprinted clear in the penultimate lap and went on to finish first after watching a string of race favourites fall victim to the soaring temperatures and strength-testing bends of Barcelona's Montjuic circuit.

"I wasn't geared up... there was a break and I followed. Winning was a real surprise to me," Criquielion said.

Italian rider Claudio Corti, the 1977 amateur road race world champion, chased the Belgian to the end but failed to catch him and finished second.

In their wake they left a handful of big-name riders such as French pair Laurent Fignon and Bernard Hinault, Ireland's Sean Kelly and Italian Francesco Moser who all succumbed to the punishing conditions and pulled out.

Last year's world champion American Greg Lemond trailed home in 27th place.

The gruelling road race ended a week of top-level competition in Barcelona where sports officials hailed the 1984 World Cycling Championships as the launch of the city's bid to host the 1992 Olympic Games.

European high jump record marks end of Rieti international athletics

RIETI, Italy (R) — West Germany's Carlo Thraenhardt staged an exciting high jump battle with Valery Sereda of the Soviet Union at an international athletics meeting here Sunday which ended with them sharing a European record.

As the light faded in Rieti's modest stadium, which has no floodlights, Sereda beat the previous record by one centimetre, clearing the bar at 2.37 metres at his first attempt.

But Thraenhardt, joint holder of the previous European record, equalled him minutes later on his third attempt.

Both athletes then failed with three attempts at 2.40 metres, one centimetre above the world record set by China's Jian Hua Zhu at Eberstadt, West Germany, in June.

The European record ended an otherwise disappointing meeting which saw pole vault champion Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union, who raised his own world record to 5.94 metres in Rome on Friday, well below his best.

Bubka, perhaps missing the competition of France's Thierry Vigneron who briefly stole the record from him at Rome's Golden Gala, finished second in his event with a best vault of 5.65 metres behind compatriot Alexander Krupsky.

Czechoslovakia's double world champion Jarmila Kratochvilova ended a successful weekend in Italy with an easy win in the women's 400 metres after her victory in the 800 metres in Rome.

Kratochvilova, who was unable to take part in the Los Angeles Olympics because of the Soviet-led boycott, finished in 49.02 seconds, outside her own record of

47.99 but comfortably ahead of Olympic champion Valerie Brisco-Hooks of the U.S.

In the women's high jump world champion Lyudmila Andonova of Bulgaria had two attempts at 2.08 metres, one centimetre above her existing world record, before deciding to be satisfied with a winning jump of 2.03 metres.

Canada's Debbie Brill battled with Andonova after the pair had left behind Soviet rival Tamara

Bykova who failed a 1.98 metres. But Brill, who has never surpassed 1.99 metres, was unable to clear the bar at two metres Sunday.

The meeting signalled another disappointment for Italy's 200 metres world champion Pietro Mennea, who could not match Olympic silver medalist Kirk Baptiste of the U.S.

Baptiste won in 20.35 seconds with 31-year-old Mennea half a stride behind.

China regains world table tennis honours

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — China regained the World Table Tennis Cup when 20-year-old student Jiang Jialing crushed South Korean Kim Wan 21-14, 16-21, 21-14, 21-11 in the final here Monday.

Jiang, the world number two, was beaten by Wan, ranked 36th, during the qualifying group matches of the competition which led to allegations that the result had been rigged to allow both players through.

But there was no doubt about the outcome of Sunday's clash as Wan, who pulled off the surprise of the tournament by reaching the final, struggled to match the speed of the talented Chinese.

Jiang swamped the South Korean's defences with a barrage of powerful shots from the third game onwards, often finishing a rally with either his third or fifth ball attacks after service.

His victory made amends for China's miserable performance last year when neither Jiang or the world number one Cai Zhenhua finished in the top eight as Sweden's Michael Appelgren lifted the title. China's last success was in 1982, when Guo Yuehua won the crown in Hong Kong.

Jiang has been building a reputation as the quickest player in the world and the style of his victory here supported that claim.

Wan, who is ranked only second in his country and played here because first-ranked Kim Kee Tek could not come, said, "I am very happy. I have beaten some of the top players in the world. I never thought I would play in the final. I was hoping for fifth placing."

"The (Chinese) players are still young and good. They were off form in the earlier matches," Chinese team coach Xu Shaofa said.

Maradona proves his worth in Italian Cup

ROME (R) — Argentine Diego Maradona, Napoli's \$7.5 million signing from Barcelona, showed his worth Sunday with a hand in all three goals against second division Pescara in an Italian Soccer Cup preliminary round.

The shock-haired striker put through a perfect cross for Domenico Penzo to net Napoli's first. A foul on the Argentine brought the second with a free kick by Bertoni, and Maradona got the third with a seemingly impossible shot from flat on his back.

Italian Cup holders and European Cup finalists Roma also

took a 3-0 victory over Genoa — two of them from the ageing Francesco Graziani — and now look well poised to qualify for the next stage of the cup after lagging earlier.

The northern clubs had a less successful day. League champions Juventus were held 2-2 by Atalanta, newly promoted to the first division, while A.C. Milan could only manage 1-1 against Como, another first division newcomer.

A similar fate befell Torino, who struggled to a goalless draw against Monza despite the efforts of Brazilian midfielder Junior.

Bayern scrapes through in W. German Soccer Cup

BONN (R) — Cupholders Bayern Munich scraped through to the second round of the West German Soccer Cup Sunday with a narrow 1-0 away win against amateur side Luettichhausen.

Bayern, first division leaders this season but with six first team players injured, won with a 10th minute goal from Roland Wohlfarth which the home side hotly contested as offside.

The visitors showed none of their usual sparkle and had Bernd

Martin sent off early in the second half for a foul. Their injury problems were aggravated by Norbert Eder leaving the pitch at halftime with a pulled muscle.

Bayern will be relieved to have avoided the fate of their great rivals Hamburg, the 1983 European Cup holders, who were knocked out of the cup Saturday by another amateur side, SC Geislingen, in their most embarrassing defeat for a decade.

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Mamola's Honda wins 500-cc Grand Prix

MUGELLO, Italy (AP) — Randy Mamola of the United States on Sunday won the 500-cc motorcycle race of the Grand Prix of San Marino here Sunday, edging Frenchman Raymond Roche after an exciting duel in the final laps.

Mamola was clocked in 49:58.00 minutes.

Both Mamola and Roche rode Japanese-made Hondas in the closing event of the world motorcycle championship at the Mugello track near Florence.

Eddie Lawson of the United States, who had already clinched

the world title for the class by piling up an unbeatable lead before Sunday's race, finished fourth on a Yamaha, after Ron Haslam of Britain, who rode a third Honda.

Stefan Dörflinger of Switzerland won the world title in the 80-cc class although he finished fifth in Sunday's race on a Zundapp.

In the 125-cc race, Spain's Angel Nieto, who already had won the 1984 championship before Sunday's race, fell during the 13th lap and suffered foot injuries.

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Abu Dhabi projects smaller budget deficit

ABU DHABI (R) — The Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the richest in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has agreed a 1984 budget with a smaller projected deficit than last year, officials said.

They said a deficit of 1.49 billion dirhams (\$405 million) was envisaged in the budget, ratified Sunday by crown prince Sheikh Khalifa bin Zaid.

They did not say how it would be financed.

It projected budget spending of 21.73 billion dirhams (\$5.92 billion) and revenues of 20.24 billion dirhams (\$5.51 billion).

Abu Dhabi's 1983 budget forecast a 2.79 billion dirham (\$760 million) deficit, with budget revenues falling 28 per cent from 1982 levels to 21.5 billion dirhams (\$5.86 billion).

Actual revenue and spending figures have not been disclosed.

Abu Dhabi, allowed to produce about 800,000 barrels per day (b/d) of oil within the UAE's 1.1 billion b/d OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) quota has been hard hit by falling world oil demand.

The budget earmarked 9.13 billion dirhams (\$2.49 billion) as the emirate's annual contribution to the federal budget of the UAE, which is made up of seven emirates, the officials said.

Separately, the UAE is projecting a deficit of 4.3 billion dirhams (\$1.17 billion), after 1983's provisional deficit of 5.52 billion dirhams (\$1.5 billion).

They said some 4.74 billion dirhams (\$1.29 billion) would be put to development programmes while 2.44 billion dirhams (\$665 million) would go to the financing of foreign aid packages and assistance to other emirates in the federation.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed after a very quiet session and at 1500 the F.T. 30 share index was up 0.2 to 853.9 and the F.T. 100 share index at 1530 gained 1.4 to 1105.3.

Dealers said bid situations provided some interest but overall operators were on the defensive in the absence of any positive news on the miners strike and industrial action at some of the British docks.

The U.S. holiday further restricted trading in government bonds but they closed steady with rises of up to 1/4 awaiting U.K. money supply data for August but gold shares eased.

Brooke Bond ended 7p up at 117 after the rival \$355 million cash bid from Unilever, down 2p at 938. First bidder, Tate and Lyle was 5p up at 383.

J. Bibby was about 62p up at 293 ex dividend after news Barlow Rand is holding bid talks. Lasso met fresh speculative demand and closed 10p higher at 338. Other oils were narrowly mixed. Johnson Matthey added 15p to 258 on demand in a thin market, dealers said.

Composite Insurances rose on renewed speculative interest with Sun Alliance 6p up at 396. Life Insurances eased and in quiet banks, Barclays firmed 5p to 467.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.3050/58	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2955/58	Canadian dollars
	2.9040/50	West German marks
	3.2755/65	Dutch guilders
	2.4235/50	Swiss francs
	58.53/56	Belgian francs
	8.9100/55	French francs
	1796.50/1797.50	Italian lire
	242.40/50	Japanese yen
	8.3475/3525	Swedish crowns
	8.3225/75	Norwegian crowns
	10.5700/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	345.30/345.80	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

"Why don't you make some of your coffee? I could use the fiber."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUGEN

KNARC

DERAIV

ROVACT

WHEN YOU'RE IN IT, YOU NEVER KNOW.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TESTY ABIDE ELUXIR LACING

Answer: In order to select the finest wine, examine this—THE BEST-CELLAR LIST

Minister says financial difficulties delay Egypt's nuclear power plans

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian minister of electricity Mr. Mohammad Osman Abaza said Monday that Egypt's plan to build eight nuclear power plants by the year 2000 would be delayed by at least five years because of financing snags.

In an interview with Reuters, he also said that Egypt needed more time to study tender documents for the first two plants and would not award a contract before the end of the year.

Five groups submitted bids last November for construction of two 1,000-megawatt pressurised water reactors at El Dabba, 150 kilometres west of the Mediterranean port of Alexandria. A decision had been expected in June.

"It has taken a long time to study the bids. Each weighs 800 kilograms, and they are all very close and similar to each other," Mr. Abaza said.

Officials said last year that Egypt had \$900 million in a spe-

cial nuclear fund, and that additional money for the \$34 billion programme would come from oil revenue.

But declining oil prices cut revenue to \$2.5 billion in 1982-83 from \$3 billion in 1981-82.

Mr. Abaza said that the first plant would be on stream in 1991.

The groups competing are West Germany's Kraftwerk Union, a France-Italian consortium led by Frances's Framatome, West Germany's Brown, Boveri and Compagnie, and Westinghouse Electric Corporation and Bechtel Overseas, both of the U.S.

Industry sources say the two reactors will cost a total of about \$2.5 billion.

Mr. Abaza said that nuclear fuel will be procured from the U.S.

He added that the oil and mineral resources ministry would be inviting firms to implement a U.S.-funded project to evaluate Egypt's

Poland devalues zloty

WARSAW (R) — Poland's National Bank said Monday it had devalued the zloty by 10.6 per cent against the dollar in an effort to stimulate exports. It said the devaluation, effective as of last Saturday, gave an exchange rate of 123 to the dollar, compared with a previous rate of 110. The devaluation is the fourth of the Polish currency since the declaration of martial law in December 1981 at the height of the Solidarity free trade union crisis.

In 1980 the zloty stood at about 25 to the dollar.

Last March Poland devalued the zloty to 110 from 98.3 to the dollar, but many Western economists regarded that change as not going far enough. Poland's exports to Western countries, vital to servicing its foreign debt of some \$28 billion, have lagged this year partly because of an overvalued zloty, the economists said. Particular difficulties have been experienced by engineering industries, which suffer from a crop of problems including a shortage of hard currency for importing production parts and technology from the West. A senior bank official told Reuters the National Bank hoped the dollar would depreciate in the future, enabling Poland to avoid another devaluation of the zloty.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUG., 4, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A great day to get after your various civic, career or outside conditions of all sorts and to make progress in them. Be sure you discuss your affairs over with someone of influence.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You could get a raise or promotion because of fine work you do today. Show one who has considerable power over you that you're loyal.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try a more up-to-date system for making money and become more successful. Elevate your consciousness and grow.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Do whatever will please the one you love and the future becomes brighter. Make sure you keep all promises.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Join with dynamic partners and get into more productive outlets: become more successful.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get your duties organized more intelligently and you can perform them more efficiently.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be more practical in studying amusements you like and plan how to have them more often, and not spend too much money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Become more practical at home so that kin will feel more secure and happy there.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Others may be waiting for you to state your views on some constructive mutual venture, so do so. Be active and make progress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can get ahead monetarily if you are more practical and can build up assets. Take it easy tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) The planets are poised so that you can protect your interests very nicely now. Then later be with the friends you most admire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Stop dreaming and get busy making arrangements confidentially so that you can improve business affairs.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A dynamic friend can help you with some matter that is of importance to you, so permit to do so.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... ...he or she will be very good at organizing things and should have the benefit of a fine education slanted along such lines and your progeny could become the head of some large organization or become a valuable adjunct in the government.

Argentine unions launch general strike

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's powerful trade unions, backed by the opposition Peronist Party, Monday launched the first general strike since the country returned to democracy nine months ago.

Major industrial unions, transport workers and others said they would stay home in a peaceful protest against President Raul Alfonsin's economic policies and talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Alfonsin's government pledged to guarantee the right to work and provide public trans-

port. But government officials said they expected at least 50 per cent absenteeism in major cities.

The General Labour Confederation (CGT) called the strike last Wednesday after the government failed to meet labour demands for an August wage increase to protect workers from a 615 per cent annual inflation rate.

It accused the government of bowing to IMF pressure for an economic austerity programme and maintaining the economic policies of the former military government.

But Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun, who returned Sunday night from a meeting in Chile on Latin America's debt, said strike had nothing to do with the IMF.

"The strike has other aims which are more political and I would even say are the fruit of too great a hurry," he told Diarios Y Noticias News Agency.

Mr. Alfonsin took power last December, inheriting a 433 per cent inflation rate and a \$44 billion foreign debt from the military

Unilever bids for British tea group

LONDON (R) — The Anglo-Dutch consumer goods giant Unilever has moved into a takeover battle looming over the British Brooke Bond tea group with a \$355 million (\$465 million) cash offer.

It exceeds a rival bid by British sugar refiner Tate and Lyle last month of around \$320 million (\$419 million), which is being fiercely resisted by the Brooke Bond board.

In a statement, Unilever said it was offering 114 pence (149 cents) per share, slightly up on its latest market price of 110 (144), and had approached the group to disclose its interest.

But Brooke chairman Sir John Cuckney said Sunday's offer had taken him by surprise.

"It has arrived out of the blue," he told Reuters, complaining this was in breach of takeover rules.

There had been a meeting with Unilever on Friday, but no price or imminent bid was mentioned, Sir Cuckney said. "Late on Friday is no way to get a knee-jerk acceptance of an approach that has not even been articulated," he

added.

Unilever, with about 270,000 employees worldwide in the food and detergent sector, said it already had a 4.8-per cent stake in Brooke Bond, while Tate and Lyle holds 0.6 per cent.

Unilever said it reserved the right to pull out if its offer was referred to the Monopolies Commission, a government watchdog body on takeovers and mergers.

However, industry sources said the only other major tea competitors were in India.

Company chairman Mr. Kenneth Durham said each firm could benefit from the strength and expertise of the other.

While Unilever's tea operations in Britain were "extremely limited," Brooke Bond was very small in the U.S., where Unilever held a strong position through its Thomas Lipton subsidiary.

The group recorded pre-tax profits of \$441 million (\$577 million) for the first half of 1984, compared with \$381 million (\$498 million) over the same period last year.

Turkey economic growth may surpass estimates

ZURICH (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal predicted Monday Turkey's economy as measured by the Gross national Product (GNP) might grow by a 5.7 per cent this year, higher than earlier estimates of 4.8 per cent this year, higher than earlier estimates of 4.8 per cent.

Speaking to Reuters shortly before attending an informal lunch with Swiss industrialists and bankers, he said 5.7 per cent growth after inflation would be the highest in seven years.

Growth in 1983 was three per cent and in 1982 4.5 per cent.

Mr. Ozal also predicted a 1984 inflation rate of 40 per cent, compared with 39 per cent in 1983.

But he said in the last half of 1983, inflation had been running at 47 per cent on an annual basis and had reached 63 per cent in the final quarter of last year.

In the first half of 1984, inflation is likely to have dropped to an annualised 45 per cent and he

forecast a further decline to 30 per cent for the second half of this year.

He also saw an improvement in exports to between \$7.2 and \$7.3 billion in 1984, up from \$5.7 billion in 1983.

Mr. Ozal said Turkey's foreign exchange situation was improving and foresaw no difficulties about repayment of debt capital expected later this year.

He also said Turkey's industrial base was strengthening. While in 1979, 38 per cent of Turkey's \$2.2 billion in exports came from the industrial sector, in 1984 industrial exports could be expected to account for 74 per cent of all sales abroad.

He said Turkey was expected to make a decision this month on purchases of new aircraft, with proposals being considered from Boeing company and the European consortium, Airbus Industrie.

Peanuts

I BELIEVE IN THE WORK ETHIC...

THE HARDER YOU WORK, THE MORE MONEY YOU SHOULD MAKE!

I BELIEVE IN THE ALLOWANCE ETHIC!

Mutt 'n' Jeff

I CAN PROVE THAT MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO YOUR ANCESTORS CAME OUT OF THE SEA!

HOW?

HERE, HOLD A CIGARETTE IN EACH CORNER OF YOUR MOUTH! NOW FLAP YOUR ARMS!

THERE YOU ARE, LITTLE WALRUS!

Andy Capp

YOU CAN'T WIN I'M ALL, ANDY -

SOME BLOKES ARE GOOD LOSERS, WHILE OTHERS CAN'T ACT TO SAVE THEIR LIVES!

THE Daily Crossword

by Roma Schmidt

ACROSS

1 Move quickly

5 Up to the time that

10 Paradise denizen

14 First-class

15 Sculptured piece

16 Specialty shop

17 Reckless

19 Ellipse

20 Water swelling

21 Arabian chieftain

23 Vex

24 Gr. letter

26 Walk leisurely

32 Rebecca or Mae

34 Period

35 Mated

38 Cavalry sword

40 Having curls

42 Titles

44 Calumet

46 Agents

47 Eurocot

49 Pekoe or oolong

50 Fitzgerald

51 Less dense

53 Added garlic

57 Hft sign

58 Rashious substance

60 Like a cupola

62 Bingo-like game

66 Wide jar

68 — cake

70 Ornamental button

71 Wear away

72 Piscivorous bird

73 Cries

74 Church group

75 Colors

18 Outmoded

22 Uses ears

25 In a while

27 Vast

28 Toothed tools

29 With mouth wide open

30 Spiny shrub

31 Blind part

33 Wigwag's relative

36 Flightless bird

37 Cub packs

39 Behind

41 Dog cry

43 Tastes

46 Stated

48 Rubes

52 Covered over

54 Horse and penal

55 Abrasive

56 Can. island

58 Deprivation

59 Singing voice

61 Capar mass

63 Whig

64 Musical sound

65 Keatsian works

67 Newspaper items

68 Conducted

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75

Typhoon toll may rise to 1,000 in Philippines

SURIGAO, Philippines, (Agencies) — Three hundred people are now known to have died in a powerful typhoon which swept across the southern and central Philippines during the weekend and the death toll may rise to 1,000, a government official said Monday.

Vice-Governor Salvador Sering of Surigao del Norte province told reporters: "At least 1,000 people may have died. This is the worst typhoon ever to hit this area."

The mayor of Surigao, Constantino Navarro, said at least 82 people had died in Surigao City alone and some 300 others were missing.

An army commander said some 200 people had died in the nearby municipality of Mainit.

The vice-governor said communications between his province and the rest of the country had been totally disrupted and his estimate of the eventual death toll was based on initial reports from the worst affected areas.

A group of reporters who visited the town of Surigao, which has a population of 125,000, found scenes of widespread devastation Monday.

Typhoon Ike, which at its peak gusts at 275 kilometres per hour,

damaged or destroyed nearly 90 per cent of the house in central Surigao.

Telephone poles lay twisted across the streets and houses were reduced to rubble. Roofs of most buildings had been blown away.

Uprooted trees and powerlines littered the streets. The town has been without drinking water and electricity since Saturday night when Ike — the most powerful typhoon to hit the Philippines in 14 years — swept in from the Pacific.

"The typhoon left a trail of destruction on Mindanao Island, Cebu, the country's second city, and on Negros Island in the heartland of the sugar-growing industry."

Dozens of small boats and fishing vessels were smashed or sunk as the typhoon lashed high seas into harbours and low-lying coastal communities.

In a message to a government relief agency, Governor Navarro said 22 people died, 21 were hurt and several were missing on nearby Nonoc Island. He appealed for food, water and medicine.

Northeast Mindanao bore the brunt of the storm as it moved in from the Pacific on Saturday. Samar and Leyte islands were also feared to have suffered but communications with the two provinces were interrupted.

The weather department said Ike was moving towards the South China Sea between Mindoro and Palawan islands, 320 kilometres south of Manila.

Cebu City and neighbouring towns were without water and electricity as power lines were down. Many major roads were impassable, provincial officials said.

At least three people were killed, 15 injured and hundreds made homeless in Negros Occidental Province. Officials said wide areas of cropland were under water and they estimated damage in millions of pesos.

They said the Philippine sugar commission was trying to find out how badly plantations were damaged. But they said it was impossible to make an accurate assessment before floodwater receded and the weather improved.



LATEST IN THE ARSENAL: An unidentified U.S. air force officer looks over a B-1A bomber on pad at Edwards Air Base northeast of Los Angeles. The B-1A is one of the flying prototypes of the B-1 line of U.S. combat aircraft. A similar aircraft crashed at the base last Wednesday (AP wirephoto)

S. Africans, blacks stage violent protests

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Crowds of black demonstrators stoned and set fire to cars, buses and shops Monday, killing two people, and several policemen and rioters were wounded in clashes south of Johannesburg, police said.

Police used tear gas and rubber bullets to quell the demonstrations in Sharpeville, Sebokeng and Evaton Black townships about 75 kilometres south of Johannesburg, said spokesman Lt. Henry Beck at police headquarters in Pretoria. Trouble also had flared in the area Sunday night.

Black residents of the townships had called for a one-day boycott of work and schools Monday to protest rent increases announced last week.

There were unconfirmed reports that one of those killed was a member of the black local council.

Beck said several people were injured "in countermeasures taken by the South African police and other private individuals acting in self-defence."

Rising unemployment among blacks at a time of 12.4 per cent inflation have fuelled tensions in black townships in recent weeks. Sporadic protests have broken out in a number of areas east and south of Johannesburg, leaving at least nine dead since late July, including Monday's victims.

The black majority of nearly 22 million remains excluded from national politics under a new constitution that took effect Monday. The system creates new chambers of parliament for the Asian and mixed-race minorities to sit alongside the existing white chamber, but blacks are considered citizens of tribal homelands with political rights there rather than in South Africa itself.

The U.S. embassy issued a statement saying that the Indian government had guaranteed the hijackers would not be sentenced to death.

The United States turned down the hijackers' request for asylum because the "policy of the U.S. government is firmly to resist any concessions to terrorists in the conviction that such concessions only serve to further terrorist activity," the statement said.

There was no immediate comment from the Indian government. The maximum penalty a hijacker can receive is life imprisonment if no violence is involved.

The U.S. election season officially opened Monday, although candidates have been campaigning for months. Mr. Reagan started his bid for re-election in California's Orange County, a staunchly Republican area of his home state.

S. Lankan lawyers stage protest

Colombo (R) — Lawyers in Sri Lanka's troubled northern province Monday boycotted courts in protest against the alleged harassment of minority Tamils by the security forces.

Court officials said a number of cases in the northern province capital of Jaffna and at nearby Mallakam had been postponed because of the boycott.

A spokesman for the lawyers accused the security forces of harassing innocent people and damaging their property in the campaign against separatist guerrillas. The number of lawyers involved

in the boycott was not immediately known but residents in the north told Reuters by telephone that about 150 had stayed away.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathududi said Sunday the government was inquiring into allegations that several civilians were killed and shops were set ablaze by police in the northern town of Pedro on Saturday.

Residents said police were taking revenge for the killing of four of their colleagues in a guerrilla ambush near point Pedro the same day. They charged that more shops were burned Sunday.

U.S. says nothing new in Chernenko's statement

IRVINE, California (R) — The White House said Sunday it saw nothing new in Soviet leader Constantine Chernenko's statement that an agreement on banning weapons in space could lead to other disarmament discussions.

"The official view of the statement is it does not seem to go beyond Soviet policy statements in the past," spokesman Larry Speakes said. But he added: "We'll look at it carefully."

Mr. Chernenko was quoted in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda as repeating the Soviet position that the United States was stalling on space weapons talks by insisting on also raising the issue of suspended nuclear weapons negotiations.

He said: "Such an agreement would not only prevent the arms race in outer space, but, what is no less important, would facilitate the solution of questions of limiting and reducing other strategic armaments."

Moscow proposed on June 29 that the two sides should meet in Vienna later this month. Washington responded positively, but called for the inclusion of talks on nuclear weapons.

"We have said yes to going to Vienna to talk with the Soviet Union on anti-satellite weapons. We don't know why the Soviets can't accept yes for an answer," Mr. Speakes said.

He said the United States still wanted to go to Vienna. "We're not going through the charade of talking to an empty chair. But we're prepared to go there," he told reporters travelling on Air Force One with President Reagan.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

© 1984 Tribune Company Syndicate, Inc.

SECOND HAND HIGH!

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

AK3

986

A6432

K10

WEST

Q65

J9874

Q42

K10

K95

QJ108

J764

53

SOUTH

102

AJ753

7

AQ982

The bidding:

South West North East

1 Pass 2 NT Pass

3 Pass 3 Pass

4 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠.

There are hundreds of maxims that apply to bridge. But if you follow them slavishly, you will never be a winning player. They cater to general situations, not particular hands. Witness this example from last year's world championship.

The French North-South pair reached four hearts and West led a spade. Declarer won and played a trump. He covered the ten with the jack. West won the queen and reverted to spades. Declarer won, picked up the

king of trumps, cashed two high clubs and ruffed a club in dummy. Then he came back to hand by cashing the ace of diamonds and ruffing a diamond, drew the last trump and claimed twelve tricks.

In the other room, the Italians were too aggressive and ended up in six hearts. Here, too, the lead was a spade to dummy's king and a trump was led. But French star Michel Lebel stepped in with the king of trumps!

This play made a vast difference in the outcome of the hand. Declarer won the ace, but he could not afford to play another round of trumps — West would win and remove dummy's last trump, and declarer would end up losing a club unless he took a very unusual view of the club position.

So declarer tried something else. He cashed the king and ace of clubs and tried to ruff a club with the board's nine. But when East overruffed with the ten, declarer still had to concede a trump trick for down one.

Knowing the rules for any situation is well and good. Knowing when to break them is better.

India begins interrogation of hijackers

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The Indian government on Monday began interrogating seven Sikh hijackers who were extradited to India from the United Arab Emirates after the United States rejected their request for political asylum.

They arrived in New Delhi early Monday morning in a chartered Boeing 707 from Dubai and were immediately taken to an undisclosed location for interrogation by India's intelligence police before being put on trial.

No date for the court was scheduled, officials said. The government has said the hijackers would receive a "fair trial... however despicable their crime may be."

The U.S. embassy issued a statement saying that the Indian government had guaranteed the hijackers would not be sentenced to death.

The United States turned down the hijackers' request for asylum because the "policy of the U.S. government is firmly to resist any concessions to terrorists in the conviction that such concessions only serve to further terrorist activity," the statement said.

There was no immediate comment from the Indian government. The maximum penalty a hijacker can receive is life imprisonment if no violence is involved.

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Ice chunk disrupts space shuttle flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — U.S. space experts worked through the night trying to find a way to get rid of a big icicle discovered on the exterior of the space shuttle Discovery Sunday.

"It's at the 'concern' state right now," Flight Director John Cox told reporters after the six astronauts went to sleep following their fourth day in space.

Mr. Cox said the main concern about the 45 centimetre chunk of ice on the left side of Discovery was that, if it remained there, it could become dislodged and strike another part of the spaceship, especially during the return to Earth.

"It's a concern because people don't understand it and don't know what damage could occur," he said.

He added that shuttle managers believed something similar happened on a previous mission, when the dome-like cover over the orbiter's rocket engines was damaged by what was officially listed as an unknown object.

The ice crystal formed when the astronauts dumped waste water through a valve outside the crew quarters in the forward section of the shuttle. The valve is now covered in ice.

Mr. Cox said the experts did not know exactly what caused the crystal to form, but they theorised that similar icicles could have developed on previous flights but went undetected.

120 dead or missing in S. Korean floods

SEOUL, (R) — At least 120 people were dead or missing Monday as South Korean authorities carried out a massive cleanup operation after three days of torrential rains and floods.

The anti-disaster office said the known death toll had reached 83 with 37 missing and almost 100,000 people made homeless.

Property damage was put at more than \$6 million, but this did not include damage to rice crops, due to be harvested in two weeks' time.

Officials said about 66,000 acres (26,000 hectares) of crops and farmland were under water.

The downpours started after dark on Friday night. Thousands of people in Seoul and north of the capital awoke to find flood waters pouring through their homes.

U.S. Air Force helicopters joined South Korean forces in rescue operations, plucking people from the roofs of farm and village houses as rain-swollen rivers and streams burst their banks.

Thousands of soldiers and police joined villagers in shoring up operations and repairing roads.

Police evacuated more than 50,000 people living near the Han River which flows through the centre of Seoul. Five of 13 bridges across the Han were closed.

Seoul was struggling back to normal Monday after the rains eased off Sunday. Water levels in the Han River began to subside and storm warnings were lifted in most areas.

But officials said the search was continuing for people unaccounted for in landslides and collapsed buildings.

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120 dead or missing in S. Korean floods

SEOUL, (R) — At least 120 people were dead or missing Monday as South Korean authorities carried out a massive cleanup operation after three days of torrential rains and floods.

The anti-disaster office said the known death toll had reached 83 with 37 missing and almost 100,000 people made homeless.

Property damage was put at more than \$6 million, but this did not include damage to rice crops, due to be harvested in two weeks' time.

Officials said about 66,000 acres (26,000 hectares) of crops and farmland were under water.

The downpours started after dark on Friday night. Thousands of people in Seoul and north of the capital awoke to find flood waters pouring through their homes.

U.S. Air Force helicopters joined South Korean forces in rescue operations, plucking people from the roofs of farm and village houses as rain-swollen rivers and streams burst their banks.

Thousands of soldiers and police joined villagers in shoring up operations and repairing roads.

Police evacuated more than 50,000 people living near the Han River which flows through the centre of Seoul. Five of 13 bridges across the Han were closed.

Seoul was struggling back to normal Monday after the rains eased off Sunday. Water levels in the Han River began to subside and storm warnings were lifted in most areas.

But officials said the search was continuing for people unaccounted for in landslides and collapsed buildings.

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3 Pakistanis flogged for sex, drug crimes

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Three men were publicly flogged Sunday on the orders of military courts for sex and drug crimes. About 2,000 people watched in silence at a sports stadium as one of the convicts received 10 lashes for drug trafficking. The other two were given five lashes each for assaulting a woman. The flogging of another man convicted of assaulting a woman fixed for Sunday was postponed on medical grounds, jail officials said.

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